

HOT AND DIRTY MOUNTAINBOARDING ACTION

SCUZ

MOUNTAINBOARDING
ZINE

ISSUE 5
www.scuz.info



2004 ATBA UK SERIES



SCUZ/OTG SOCIAL



LUSH LONGBOARDS

FRONT SIDE

We're back!! Weh hey! There were doubts about whether or not we would. But hey, you can't keep a good crew down. So we're either good, or lucky, or something, I don't know. Probably just bloody-minded and stubborn, it's worked so far!

And here we are with issue cinq. What's happened since last time then?

Quite a lot as it happens. The ATBmag World Freestyle Championships were held in a rather chilly warehouse in Weston Super Mare, and was by all accounts a resounding success. Well done ATBmag, and everyone who was involved with that. The Scuz interclub Social (read mud bath followed by foam pit party) was a good laugh. Well done us!

Prisoners being held at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq faced the reality of ignorant American foreign policy, and were tortured, raped, beaten, set upon by dogs, and all that horrible stuff that an occupied people seem to face when the occupier is 'civilised'. Bush described this as Un-American, while at the same time describing his leadership as American. He appears to have missed the irony there, or he missed the point or really hasn't a clue what's going on whatsoever, bless his cotton socks.

0800 Reverse is sponsoring the UK ATBA series, which is pretty amazing, I wonder if we'll get that bird from neighbours coming down for a dirty weekend? If not, she's missing out. Oh yeah, and Scuz missed the first two comps, partly because Welly is crap with money, and partly because I am. These things happen.

What else? Oh, yes. The UK government stuck to its position on holding a full open and public debate about GM test crops being grown in the UK, and left it to the media to report the first test sites of a corn that is for cattle fodder, nice one lads.

Europe has expanded to include 10 new countries, who are over the moon about joining the now 450 million people in the EU's free trade area, and the British people told the government they don't like the idea one bit, by practically throwing the Labour party out of local government. What a truly multicultural bunch we are. What a lot of rubbish I bang on about.

We are soon going to be testing the loyalty to our idea, our zine, and our commitment to going on about boarding and whatever else we think you should get to hear about! We're thinking of introducing a very small fee for the zine, to help us get it printed, and to help us expand to get more zines out, with the eventual goal being a full colour magazine, continuing the ethos of the current thing.

I think that's about it. Nice one. Sorry it's been so long.

Love and Dirt,

Scuz



CONTENTS ISSUE.FIVE



8 THE BROTHERS HERRIOT



10 LUSH LONGBOARDS



14 ATBA UK CHAMPIONSHIPS



22 SCUZ/OTG SOCIAL



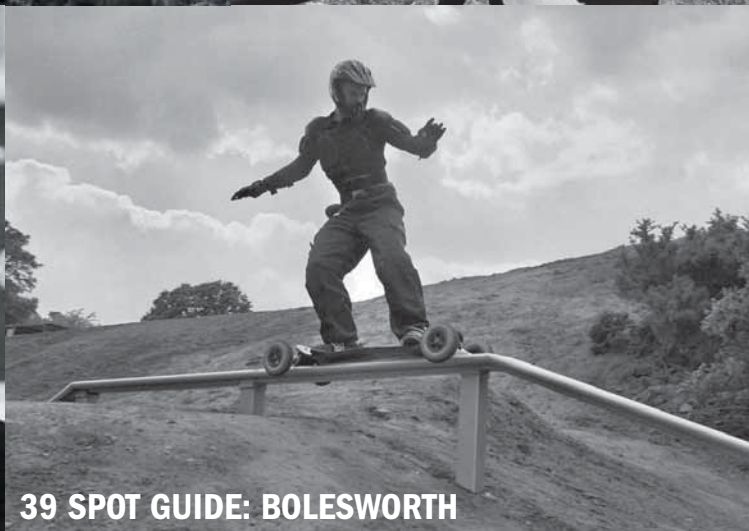
28 PADDING... NOT TO BE SNIFFED AT



30 ONE LAST RUN



34 POLITICS



39 SPOT GUIDE: BOLESWORTH

IRREGULARS

EDITORIAL p02
the scuz editors blather on inanely in their usual style

NEWS p06
latests news and gossip from the scene

LETTERS p07
finally scuz readers get off their arse to tell us what they think

COMPETITION TIME p09
the monthly scuz give away that no one cares about

DEAR TECHNICAL JOHN p32
technical issues solved by our very own Technical John

REVIEWS, REVIEWS, REVIEWS p40
just music this time. good music though.

ATBA-UK p40
the all terrain boarding association page

NEXT ISSUE p42
what's coming up in the next ish? your guess is a good as ours

INJURY OF THE MONTH p43
it's always funny until someone gets hurt, then it's just hilarious

WHO MADE SCUZ WHERE TO GET SCUZ

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FRONT COVER

Paul Turner of Team North West Coast, racing at
Round 2. (photo by Paul Crilley)

SPECIAL THANKS

Natalie Reynolds, Q from MEBA for the new
logo! Get in touch with Q on 01472 318868 for
any logo or illustration work!

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The views expressed in this zine are proudly
those of Scuz, it's editorial staff and those of
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For rates about advertising, get in touch.

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NEXT ISSUE

24th September

DISCLAIMER

Always wear a helmet. Don't blame us. It's not
our fault.

MIDLANDS

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Kite 'n' Skate, Dursley

www.gruntys.co.uk

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NEWS AND UPDATES

Since the industry seems to finally be warming to Scuz, we're not only getting advertising, but also getting news!

GRIT X OFFROAD LONG BOARD

It seems the people behind Grit X protective equipment had decided to have a bash at making a board. I have to say, I am not entirely sure what kind of board, the pictures may indicate why I am unable to describe it.

Looking kind of like an offroad long board, but with straps. It doesn't look like my cup of tea, but then I am often sceptical about new and innovative design, and then pleasantly surprised upon riding the results of such design.

Let the pictures describe a board better than my words. I'm not sure I would buy one, but I might well want a go if you've got one!!

When this might be out, or if this will actually be released is anyone's guess.

OFF ROAD BOARDING COMPANY

"The Off Road Boarding Company is introducing two new boards to their line up, and breaks new ground with the revolutionary new Core Materials in their boards - M-Core

Time just seems to be flying by, and it's definitely because we've been having fun. We love to try new things, and our ability to change and adapt to the constant evolution of the sport and its components has been essential to our growth. The Off Road Boarding Company Team has been diligently testing new boards, and they've been nothing short of brutal with them. Not only have we been testing the waters with new materials again, but we've been testing new components as well. When it comes to designing a board, we've always gone by the feeling of the board on your feet, the rail to rail transitioning in the trucks, the grip of the wheels on the ground, and the smile on your face.

That's why we are so proud to be able to release the final pieces to the Mothership puzzle. We have added two new sizes, and now The Mothership Series is complete. We're stoked to offer you all our new 37-inch, or 39-inch boards, as well as the original 41-inch version. We are releasing these boards with a top-secret new material called an M-core.

We love trying new things, and this is just another example of how we will always change and adapt to the evolution of the sport and its components. This just might be the board you've been waiting for, so don't miss this opportunity to find and build your own stellar ride!"

www.offroadboarding.com

NOSNO'S NEW DOWNHILL MONSTER

While at round three of the UK championships, Dave Tatham pointed me towards the first production model of their new full on downhill board. Simon Packer, of Ride The Hill, is the lucky new owner of this quite awesome board.

Featuring Hope hydraulic disc brakes mounted on Primo composite hubs, unusually on the front, which Dave insists is the way forward for



from the top: grit x long-offroad-board-type-thing, the first production model of the new nosno pro freeride board, as modelled by Sam WarriLOW.

brake systems on mountainboards - and who can argue with one of the finest riders in the world - and a new version of the composite trucks seen previously on the Pro DownHill. This is quite a board and will find itself well at home tearing up the most extreme downhill terrain.

Priced for those absolutely dedicated and

serious about the sport, you'll be able to pick one of these up for around £900. Get in touch with nosno for further details at:

www.nosno.co.uk or 0870 870 0150

UK INLINE BOARDING ASSOCIATION

With ever increasing numbers of inline boards within the UK combined with their incredible versatility it has become increasingly clear that a focal point for this wide ranging and varied group of boarders was needed. To this end the UK Inline Boarding Association (UKIBA) has been formed.

The principal aim of the UKIBA is to help support and develop a community for the several hundred inline boards and boarders in the UK.

The last few months have seen the UKIBA develop from an idea into a body that has already represented the interests of inline boarders in the three main areas of the sport; on-road, off-road and kite boarding.

Within the last month alone the UKIBA has assisted in running the "Dirtsurfer" classification at the Welsh Open Mountainboard championships, sent a representative to compete in the International Gravity Sports event in Germany and been lobbying the regional press in protest of the Pendine Sands closure to Kiteboarding.

Later this summer there will be an official launch party for the UKIBA which will include camping, barbeque, boarding demonstrations and competitions. Whether you are a beginner, old hand or just want to come for the chance to try one of these versatile boards for the first time, we hope to see you there.

From this promising beginning we hope to see Inline Boarding in the UK, in all its forms go from strength to strength.

For more info visit www.ukiba.com or mail us at info@ukiba.com

TEAM TANTRUM

At the start of the season it was decided that Tantrum should have a team to compete in boardercross and freestyle in the 2004 ATBA UK Championships. Tantrum was already sponsoring the series so the team was the next logical step.

Round 1 came along and Mike Gerighty, myself (Paul Turner) and Will "Scouse" O'Prey got together, by the freestyle we were riding as "Team Tantrum". This is the first season myself and Scouse have competed, and so far things are going well, top 30 finishes in the open boardercross, and top 15 for the freestyle.

Mark "Sully" Sullivan joined us at round two and by round 3 he was ripping up the under 18's boardercross and pulling some crazy stuff on a skateboard, this included the foam pit and the boardercross. Sully is the true northern loon.

Keep your eyes on Scuz for more updates on the team and a look at the new team shirts.

GO ON, TICKLE OUR EGO A BIT MORE

Dear Scuz,

Unfortunately due to huge work commitments and a combined lack of enthusiasm and devotion to my mountain bike, I've been away from boarding for about a year (except for a trip to the Maxtrax classic last summer). But have started recently, to pay attention to the ATBSports forums and through this got in touch with my ol' chum, Welly.

Well it has to be said that Welly and Andy are responsible for something fantastic. Scuz is unmatched in its approach to mountainboarding. This isn't knocking my good friends J and Anni at ATBmag at all, as they also are responsible for a brilliant ATB media.

What I mean, is that this is an alternative approach, a fresh view. Or maybe I'm just experiencing the passion of my new love affair with my MBS. Who knows, the fact is, boarding is more than just strapping onto 4 wheels and a plank then belting down a hill hell for leather. Its about friends getting together and living great lives. It's the way forward.

Good luck guys. Thanks for your part in my renewed enthusiasm.

Mountangoat, Cornwall

It's always nice to receive a letter like this, after all most human beings undertake projects such as this for recognition. I'm glad we've inspired you, you've inspired us. It's all good.

OLLIE HAS A RANT, AMONGST THINGS

Winter's over. Thank fuck for that it was getting me down. It's the 16th of March and it's finally like, "wow, its summer."

Two days ago it was national Pi day, and it was really a bit shit. When I heard about it I was kinda hoping it'd be the good kind of pie, like in the Weeble toons. But it wasn't, just like a load of mathematicians sat in a room and listened to a guy recite 25 000 digits of Pi.

Apparently they listened in rapture and it was exciting 'cos it was a new world record and shit but I really find it hard to believe that any ones life is that dull. Six fucking hours; what a waste. I went for a ride, hooked up with some new people and landed a new trick. Then watched a movie, and then went out. That's how Sundays should be spent, not in a room full of balding men listening to a guy ranting numbers.

The 10th was national no smoking day... and well all the non-smokers who are against it didn't smoke, and all those that do smoke did smoke. Another pointless waste of time.

This month goes out to all the people I don't like, who give me grief for pointless shit. All the people that live in a tiny lil box. All the people that vote republican. All the people that don't achieve anything and all the people that only cause harm.

This month is un-officially the start of summer. So I want all you lot to get in shape. I want people to eat less shite, I want you all to stretch for 30 minutes a day, I want you all do 30 minutes of exercise, be it weights, press ups

or cardio vascular work. I also want everyone to make a change to their lives.

If you've got a drug habit, drinking, smoking quit for 30 days. If you don't, start for 30 days. I want everyone to download/steal/buy five songs from different artist of a different genre than you normally listen to.

I want everyone to tell some one who pisses them off to get fucked, and some one they love that they do. I want everyone to go on an adventure, doesn't matter where or how long. Just pick a direction and walk, see were the road leads you, if it doesn't blaze a trail. If you ride a noSno, I want you to get on an MBS and vice-versa. If you ride neither of those boards, I want you to spend your next session riding switch. If winters getting you down, I want you to think about summer. If it's not, I envy you.

Peace

Ollie David, London

This letter doesn't really need a reply. It's more a manifesto or call to arms. We like it, it's the star letter of this issue. Not that that means anything because we've got nowt to give you. Tap us up at one of the comps and we'll give you a beer.

SCUZ PHOTO CASEBOOK

Dear Scuz,

I've been a mountainboarder for two years now. I love it dearly. I love it innocently and not so innocently. Not so our lass. Just what the hell can I do about this??

Paul, Leeds

We're sorry to hear the troubles you're having with "the wife" and can certainly sympathise. Our lass continually bleats onto us about smelly pads and how I seem to show more affection to my boards than her.

You'll be surprised but this isn't the first time we've had such a letter (it is really!). We thought the best thing to do would be a photo casebook mockup of your homelife in the style of Dear Deidre. While this won't help you, it's amused us and hopefully will amuse the rest of our readers. Sorry we couldn't be more help!

Must say, your choice of bedroom partner is somewhat unusual but the little silky number is a nice touch. But we're all men, except those who aren't, and who am I to say who (or what) you should or shouldn't have in the sack with you. The wife should be far more understanding and perhaps she needs a clip round the ear to put her in her place. (don't really hit her or we'll send the boys round!) If she knows what's good for her, she'll think before she pipes up again in future.

So keep it up, Paulie, and don't let anyone tell you that man-board loving is anything but healthy and natural. I bet your board doesn't complain about any back side action either. Maybe if you got 'er indoors a nice pink offroadster herself, she would appreciate the



situation. Unfortunately not everyone is so understanding. Stick to your guns, Paul, and if she gets on her high horse, show her a nice tweaked stiffy.

Well thats it for letters for this issue. Alright, it wasn't much but it was better than last issue, eh? If you're having a problem with your other half and think that Scuz might be able to offer advice, write in and we'll keep your letter anonymous, but act out your problems in a Scuz photo story.

Email to letters@scuz.info or hand scribed letters to:

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cardigan centre,
145 - 149 cardigan road,
leeds,
ls6 1lj**

INTERVIEW: JACK AND WILL HERRIOT

Scuz grabbed the brothers Herriot for a bit of a chat at Round 3. Great lads. Great riders.

Scuz You've been riding for the OTG team for..?

Jack Since 2001.. something like that!

Scuz So you've watched the UK series progress quite a lot from it's quite meagre beginnings through to this year, whats been your favourite event in the past?

Will We used to do the Maxtrack Classic loads.. from 98.. thats just really good fun. I think priory farm's slopestyle thing was really good. And all the rounds and finals here.. they're always good.

Scuz What do you think is the most improved centre this year?

Jack I think OTG's new slopestyle.. I think it's the best slopestyle..

Will In the world!

Jack Downhill, I love Haredown's course

Scuz Why?

Jack It's just steep and fast..

Will Jack's territory!

Scuz What do you prefer? Freestyle, freeride or Boarder X?

Will Because we don't drive, we can't go freeride as easy as most people can so we tend to come up here and do both boarder x and slopestyle. I think Jack's more into Boarder X

Jack When you're riding here you can't just ride one boarder x over and over again because you'll get to know it too well, so we mainly do freestyle when we're up here..

Will I like them both really.

Jack I only really do Boarder X and sometimes do a bit of freeriding..

Will we sometimes go with Clive [Godfrey of Hillys Boards].. he's got some good places round his way and up in the Malverns is pretty good too. But we've not really explored that much

Scuz Whats your best trick and what have you been practising?

Jack I can backflip grab but my favourite trick is 360

Will I haven't really had much practice this year but I just love big Palm-airs, really styled.. 360s are good.. a bit scary at speed. Love the foam pit as well.. I'm aiming this year to get back flips down and then back flip one footers.. got them in the foam pit.

Scuz Who are your sponsors?

Jack Just out to grass.. we're going to try and ring up a few people..

Will We're looking for sponsors!

Scuz We'll give you a scuz sponsorship! can't give you much.. free zine? Are you competitive with each other? Or do you mainly just hang out as buddies and ride together?

Will He doesn't care but I get really competitive.. secretly..

Jack I only get competitive in the competitions.. when we're just riding we like to push each other.. if he learns something

Will I have to learn it so we progress.

Scuz Who's the best??

Jack Me, by far!

Scuz Have you ever come to any punch ups??

Will Mainly at home.. over the sky controller. Thats about it!

Scuz We saw you at the OTG/Scuz social.. thank you for supporting us there!

Will It was good! good fun..

Scuz What are you hoping to achieve with your riding in the next year or two? You'll still be in the under 18 category?

Will I'm 16.. just a bit older than Jack.

Jack I'm 15.. so still at school! This is my first year in the under 18s..

Will We just want to try progress with Jack Herniman and Renny and keep up with them and hopefully we'll grow with the sport and see where it goes.

Scuz Do you get to ride with guys like that much?

Will They've come up a few times and hit the foam pit.

Jack We ride with Leon [Robbins] every wednesday.. that's a good laugh and learn his style..

Scuz Hows Tim [Jones] as a team manager?

Jack He's good! He's our team manager but doesn't ride for our team..

Will We don't have to worry about events, getting signed up and stuff. He enters the whole team. And I'm team captain.. but I don't know what I do! An opportunity to boss people about

Scuz Both of you as riders show a lot of promise, Scuz will be watching you in the future and keeping our eye out... We wish you the best with school and the rest of the seasons riding!

Will We'll see you at all the events and hang out! Good magazine! Cheers!



In traditional Scuz style, the competition entries were somewhat limited. Three entries in fact. But that is, at the very least, one more entry than last issue. Things look to be moving onwards and upwards as far as Competition Time goes.

As you may well recall from last issue, our quest for you guys was to supply us with photographs of your local scally contingent. Perhaps not the most easy of tasks but when over forty of your English pounds worth of Armadillo elbow pads was up for grabs, we had absolutely no intention of merely giving it away for gratis.

Leeds rider, Brodie, well deserved the prize for taking his life into his own hands and providing us with the photo shown. We'd like to enforce the fact that despite Scuz being Leeds based and Brodie being Leeds based has absolutely no bearing on him bagging the prize. He simply got off his arse when he saw a good thing. Unlike you bunch of useless shits.

THIS ISSUE'S COMP!

This issue to celebrate England's outstanding performance in the recent European Cup and not forgetting Tiger Tim outdoing himself by getting to the quarter finals, again, in this years Wimbledon, we've got an amazing England football shirt for you to proudly wear in celebration of the sporting finesse of our fine country.

Those in Wales, Scotland or Ireland (both Northern and the Republic of), I hear it gets rather cold in your respective nations. Fire lighters, perhaps? Just don't breath in the polyester fumes.

We're on the look out for comedians to provide us with a few gags for Scuz as we're rapidly getting more and more unfunny as each issue passes by. So what we'd like you to do is take a look at the photo of Dangerous Dave from Team BAD, taken at Round Three of the ATBA-UK Championships and tickle our funny bones with the humorous quip that Dave might be saying.

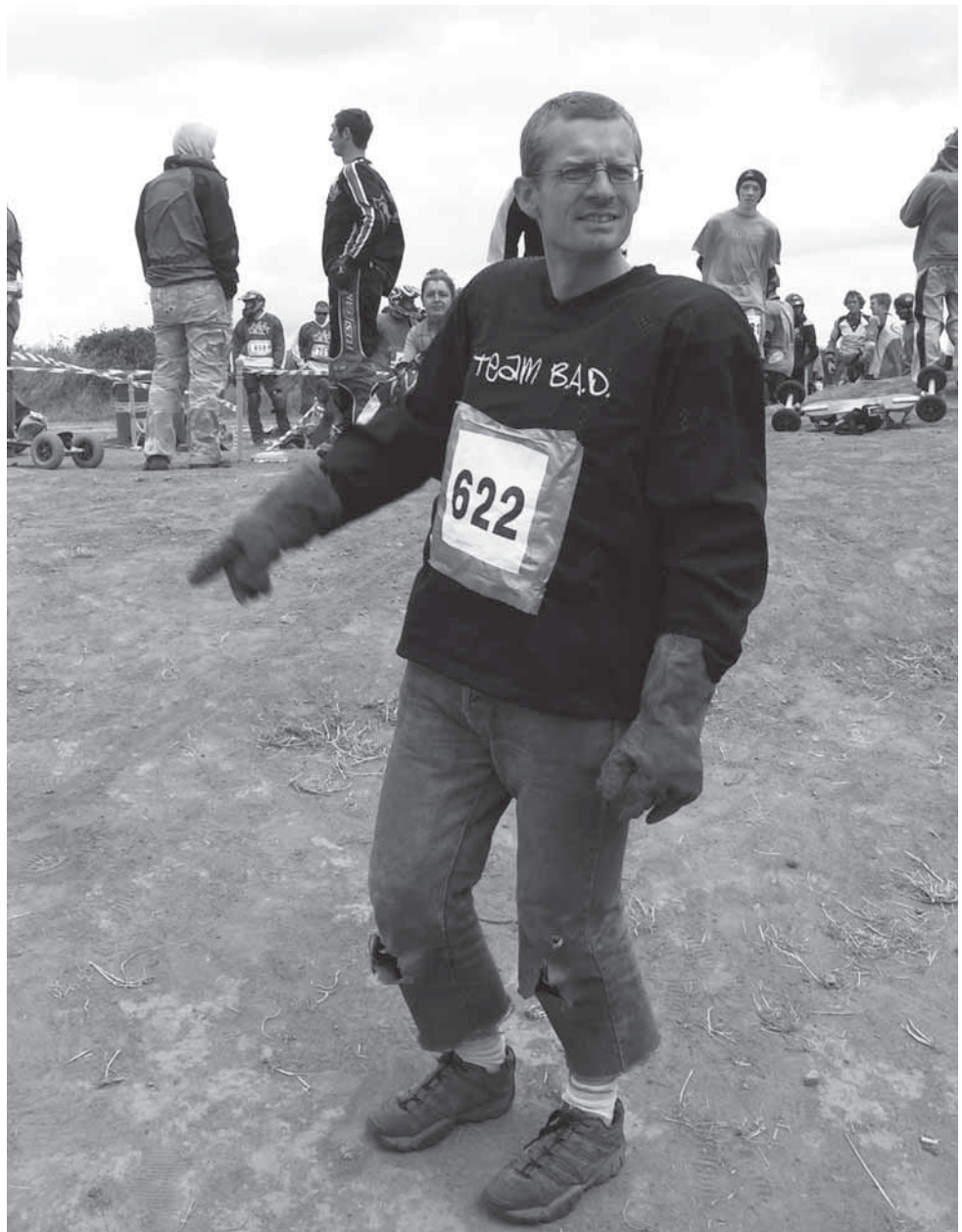
Entries, not that we're honestly expecting any, can be emailed to:

competitiontime@Scuzinfo

For those technologically-challenged/too cheap to log onto the interweb, pencil down your gibe and send it onto us at:

**Scuz Mountainboarding Zine,
Cardigan Centre,
145 - 149 Cardigan Road,
Leeds,
LS6 1LJ**

Don't forget your address otherwise we'll have to hand your prize on to the local charity shop where you'll have to pay a couple of quid for it instead of getting it for nowt from us.



DEFINE LONGBOARDING IN THE

As mentioned in a piece in Scuz issue 2, the all terrain board is just the latest in a line of board sports that have held my fascination through from childhood through almost all of my adult life.

I honestly never had a fixation or any inclination towards long boarding until extremely recently however. I had always thought of them as a surfer's tool, and while I have the utmost admiration and respect for surfers, when surfing is taken to its more crazy level, I didn't do it. It looked like too much squeezing into a gimp suit, only to go ride the ripples of sewage available to the devotees of the sport in the North East coastal town where I grew up.

I had always been a skateboarder though, and as a skater, I thought riding a board just wasn't enough, I wanted to do more than that (although I am now fully aware there is more that you can do on a long board than just ride it, but back then I wasn't interested), I wanted to tear it up.

When I saw my first ATB, an old school deck with XT wheels, I had visions of off-road air, and when I next saw an ATB after that, I bought it, thinking off-road skateboarding.

It was a little while later that I started to see the retro vibe creeping into some of the fringe elements of skateboarding, and after visiting the Lard team in London, I saw that their long boarding is a form of urban riding, not entirely dissimilar to mountain boarding the streets, although more for the pleasure of cruising, rather than trying to pull tricks off.

It wasn't long after that I was introduced to the incredible skateboarding documentary film Dogtown and the Z-boys, now more mature and open, I was intrigued in how closely intertwined the roots of skateboarding and surfing, and hence all boards sports are. When viewed from this perspective, for those ATBers living in an urban environment, a long board would seem a natural tool of choice, if not for replacing the ATB, but as a solution for inner-city travel.

Which raises the question why a long board? Why not a normal trick skateboard? Why not indeed? Its not as if ATB grew out of surfing, if anything, ATB started as cross training for snowboarders. Although maybe this assertion is incorrect, after all Akoni Kama came from a pure surf background, and I believe I have seen him longboarding with his daughter stood on the front of the deck.

If I'm honest, I just don't know. Like I said earlier, I never really felt any compulsion towards long boarding until well after I stopped skateboarding (at least in a committed and aggressive capacity), and had been off-roading for over a year. I started to look more at people's innovative board designs with interest, rather than disdain, and although I attempted to ride a few wacky devices, once I gave a long board a try, I knew it was going to be my friend.

Maybe it was just that I had been a skateboarder for so long, that when it actually dawned

on me that I was too old to be able to continue to ride for long at the level I had previously enjoyed, it was a bit of a shock to the system and a little bit depressing to say the least. When I got on the long board, I was a 'skater' again, and while you can take the piss out of the primitive tribalism of such a sentiment, cliques do exist, they are strong, and people like to belong to something, be it for friendship or recognition. I believe I am no different in this respect.

After trying a long board, and getting excited that I would once again be a skateboarder, it seemed natural that I should go for a board from lush, their website was cool, they seemed to be the kind of guys I would hang out with, they seemed to share the sort of philosophies I might subscribe to, and, much more than that, they support the ATBA, and prizes given out at last years round four, were some of the very long boards that attracted my interest.

So I got one, oh boy, did I get one! Content and at home with the fact that my ollieing and heel flipping days were over, I saw no point going halfway and getting a pool deck or a short long board, might as well get a full size cruiser! My thinking obviously swayed by the sheer ridiculousness of a Lush 'Kisiwa' I had seen, stood on, and become rather smitten with, while attending the ATBmag World Freestyle championships.

It arrived shortly afterwards, and I got easily as many looks walking round with that as I had done when I first got a mountain board, 'EEya!! Look at the size of his skateboard!' the townies would stand there amazed, all tracksuits and sovereign rings, lacking the facilities to process the information their eyes were receiving. Bless.

I hadn't really thought when I got it about doing anything other than using it as a convenient and pretty interesting way to get to and from work and college etc. until I met some of the Leeds Uni surf team, who, being based in Leeds, found the local surf a little, err, flat.

Taking their inspiration from the likes of the Dogtown vids, they showed me truly fearless downhill craziness, one run where the 30 mph speed limit is easily broken. I took my stupid big landsurfer down there after them, and have been totally hooked since. Anytime I can't get out to the hills for whatever reason, I get the longboard out instead and make do, a make do that doesn't leave me feeling cheated.

As usual I have digressed; the intention of this article being to try and find out why there seems to be such a cross over between the two sports, and indeed if there actually is.

Seeing as I don't value my opinion that highly, I thought it would be better to try and interview some experts in the field, so off we went down to Sheffield to meet and go riding with the crew that make up Lush long boards.

Tickets for the Summer Session are available from www.lushlongboards.com.

THE LUSH INTERVIEW

So we're here with Chris, Ross and Rich from Lush Longboarding.

Scuz How long have you been skateboarding?

Ross I think about 10 years, I used to skate short boards when I was a kid, for about 3 or 4 years, and I got bored just trying to do kickflips, then stopped for a few years, and then I went to University started longboarding and never looked back really.

Scuz So how did you discover longboarding?

Rich My BMX got stolen in first year and Ross had a longboard...

Chris Yeah just a mate showed me, got on and thought this is pretty easy, pretty good fun, and I thought I'd build one.

Scuz So how long was it between discovering longboarding and building your own? And why did you build your own?

Chris I had to build one to try it really, it's just something you can't buy, well you can now but five years ago...

Scuz So were you the first guys in the UK to be building these sorts of boards?

Chris Not really, but we were pushing it quite early on, sector 9 and some of the big names were out before us, but still it was well hard to get hold of one.

Scuz So the scripted question what was your first board and where did you get it, I guess you made it yourself!

Chris That's right yeah.

Ross I bought it off Lush about 3 or 4 years ago...

Scuz What was it?

Ross It was a Legend actually, which we're still making, we're making an upgraded version now, with concave....then I had a Doo Doo, which is the predecessor to the Bihari...

Chris You had about 6 Doo Doo's and you snapped them all!

Ross Taking advantage of Lush's amazing guarantee scheme. Ha ha! Chris didn't like it very much!

Scuz Chris tell me a little bit about the ethos behind Lush, and a little bit about the evolution of the boards and the company..

Chris It all started off being pretty organic, just going by itself without any big aims or targets or missions and gradually as it got bigger and we started building more boards and timber started taking over the kitchen, and the whole wall was covered in big 8' by 4's, taking over the rest of the house with stock and everything, it was time to move out and get a workshop. It went from there, until very recently it's always been something that's just kind of gone ahead



LUSH LONGBOARDS

of the planning, going by its self.

Scuz When did you first see mountain boarding?

Chris Dunno, just under 2 years ago, on the beach, it was kiteboarding, I think it's a lot more visible than your downhill, to the general public, that's because people go to the beach anyway.

Scuz And they don't tend to walk up great big hills for the sake of it...well some people do I suppose... So how long have you been a supporter of the ATBA?

Chris This has been, well this is the first year we have sponsored the series properly, but we've talked to Stu for about a year or so...so not that long really

Scuz So why did you decide you wanted to support the ATBA?

Chris Basically, there's a massive crossover between longboarding and mountainboarding. We reckon that the riding skills in any type of boarding is pretty similar, you know you jump on a snowboard and your long boarding improves, you jump on a longboard your snowboarding improves, kiteboarding on the beach improves your kitesurfing massively. It's all that kind of thing really.

Scuz Do you guys ride mountainboards?

Chris On the beach, yeah. We really want to get into downhill actually, we were going to go to a few races this year, but its time...so difficult. But Ross and I have both progressed through kiteboarding into kitesurfing.

Ross I had a mountainboard for about 9 months, I rode it quite a bit at Nottingham University, just down the hills round there and stuff, built myself a little jump ramp, there wasn't a big scene down there really, and then it got nicked, and it was like 'oh bollocks' and then I started my longboards took over again. It was a Mongoose, it was de-lamming...

Scuz Welly. That was my first board the mongoose, the one with the orange trucks and everything...

Ross Yeah same here...really not fantastic

Scuz So will Lush be developing its own mountainboard?

Chris Possibly, no defined plans at the moment, so watch this space... There's too many other things on our plate at the moment for that to be a high priority...

Ross The thing is we want to come out with something which is a lot better, which is different, we don't just want to come out with another board, that's made in the same factory, like Blue Earth and all that sort of stuff. That's not what we do, we come out with a new good product, if we're going to come out with something it will be because its better in some way, we're not going to do one just for the sake of it.

Scuz So what does the future hold for Lush as far as both skateboarding and mountainboarding goes?

Rich Crazy computer controlled CNC machines,

knocking out a million decks a day!!

Chris Yeah....possibly! We could rent an Island somewhere, get a bunch of guys shaping on the beach...

Scuz A Kisiwa!! [Svengali for Island]

Chris Yeah!

Scuz So tell me a story involving skateboarding

Rich Me and Ross we're skating in Nottingham once, down Derby Road, one of the biggest hills in Nottingham...

Ross Its one of the busiest, its like the main A road out of town to the M1

Rich Busy, at about 8 o'clock in the winter, so it was fully dark, no lights, no helmet, no gloves, just having it down this hill, and we're almost all the way to the bottom, and he (Ross) shot the traffic lights, and...looked..

Ross Looked back and saw these blue flashing lights, and thought hmmm!!

Rich I looked back and he was about five metres behind me giving it [makes siren sounds], and they stopped us and we're like, 'what the hell are you doing?!' Ha ha! And basically they just gave me a lift home because I was a student and not a local or something, if I was a local I think they would have gone 'raaaaar!' and nicked me but because I was a student they didn't seem to care.

Chris We've had a lot of close calls actually, well not that close, but you know, encounters with the police, but because you're being sensible, they don't really worry too much. You know, so long as you've got your helmet and your lights on at night, and then they just say 'Alright guys, just be sensible', and let you carry on...

Ross I think the summer session could have been a different story...

Chris Ooh yeah!!

Scuz Tell us a little bit about the summer session.

Chris Last year we had the summer session, in fact two years ago we had the very first summer session. We didn't really plan it, we didn't really expect lots of people to turn up, but they did...

Scuz How many people?

Chris We had a 15 vehicle convey, nine vans and six cars, driving round the little lanes of the peak district, and my van was at the front, and it's not the fastest, especially with eight people in it, and struggling up these hills but of course there's all these junctions everywhere. The first cars at one junction, the second car is halfway through the last one, and basically we were stopping, everybody was jumping out, skating a hill, just leaving these cars here, jumping back in again, and then moving on all in one long caterpillar train, and there was a police car at the back, for god knows how long, just following us... and eventually when we all pulled over in a lay by to skate another hill, they just came up to the front and busted us and sent us all back home, which was a bit crap. But last year the summer session was pretty good, we all stayed in a pubs garden out in the peaks, had about

thirty-thirty five riders up, with vans, everybody was...

Scuz From all across the UK...

Ross There were three riders there from Holland as well, especially for it. Yeah it was good. We had four vans; by that time we had learned from the mistakes. Four vans, each van went and rode a hill by itself, split into groups so for viability, and everyone had a brilliant time, no major injuries, no hassle from the police, it was just all good.

Scuz Any plans for another one?

Ross Yes

Chris August the 20th, we had a spring session this year in May; Cliff Coleman came over from the states, he was one of the guys who pioneered the whole sliding thing back in the 70's..

Scuz The Coleman slide?

Chris That's it. Cliff Coleman, he was over, he flew over especially for the weekend, and then he ran a sliding clinic on the Monday, teaching people how to slide, which was pretty good, and his yo-yo skills are pretty smart as well...

Ross He was a pro yo-yo-er for a couple of years he still goes to yo-yo conventions, he can do all this fancy shit, well impressive!!

Chris Yeah, we got a bunk house booked out a big thirty man bunk house, booked for the weekend in August, and the same thing you know, people turning up riding these hills, like that road you rode today. Big long things, just carving it up for hours. Yeah, it's going to be a good weekend.

Ross Yeah, basically, it's so successful that people want to do it so much, we don't charge much for it, just enough to cover our costs, so we're doing two a year now. We might do one in Autumn, sort of spring, summer, autumn, session... maybe!!

Chris The good thing about the sliding is you can do it in the wet, if it rains, we had a distance sliding competition in the spring session, and it was about a hundred and twenty feet...This guy Mark... absolutely mad, just bombing down this hill, the water just flying out from his wheels, and throwing a big slide down and just going down the road sideways about 120 feet.

Scuz Wow! So what's the fastest you have ever been on a board?

Chris I have been about 65 miles an hour, but I don't really want to do that again, err, and that was on the Spooky. Testing out the Spooky, just to kind of see what was possible, and I'm sure more is possible... I think you go over about forty, forty five miles per hour, it's just fast. There's no fast and faster, its just fast enough. Ha ha!

Ross Too fast to jump off! Ha ha, got to ride it out at that point!

Scuz Bloody hell, how did you stop?!

Chris When you're going that fast, you know, if you stand up, air resistance slows you down to about 40-45, and then you can footbrake,

but you have to get your back foot off the board so fast otherwise, its like uh-oh, but on a race board like the Spooky its much more stable, so you can do it...

Scuz To all 3 of you, if you were going to be a super hero, who would you be?

Rich Spiderman... got to be Spiderman, can't beat the webs, and then there's Kirsten Dunst...

Chris I think the Incredible Hulk!

Ross I dunno, I'd love to be able to fly. That would be awesome... So Superman.

Scuz Right, we're going to do some word associations....

Scuz Ross; concrete

Ross Snow?!

Scuz Chris; Pie!

Chris Sky?

Scuz Blades

Rich Crap! Ha ha!

Scuz Owls

Ross Birds

Scuz Pool

Chris cue

Scuz German

Rich Grey! Ha ha!

Scuz Green

Ross Speed.

Scuz Eh? Speed? Green? Ha ha. United States of America

Chris Eagles

Ross I was going to say evil! Ha ha!

Scuz If you could take away someone's life and bring someone else back to life, whose life would you take and who would you bring back to life?

Chris Funnily enough Rich was thinking about this, this morning!!

Rich I can't think of anyone to kill, but I would definitely bring back Jimi Hendrix, I dunno who I'd kill...

Scuz You've got to kill someone man, this is a give and take situation...

Rich I couldn't think of anyone, so Jimi will just have to stay dead!! Ha ha

Ross Surely there must be someone who deserves to live less than Jimi Hendrix...

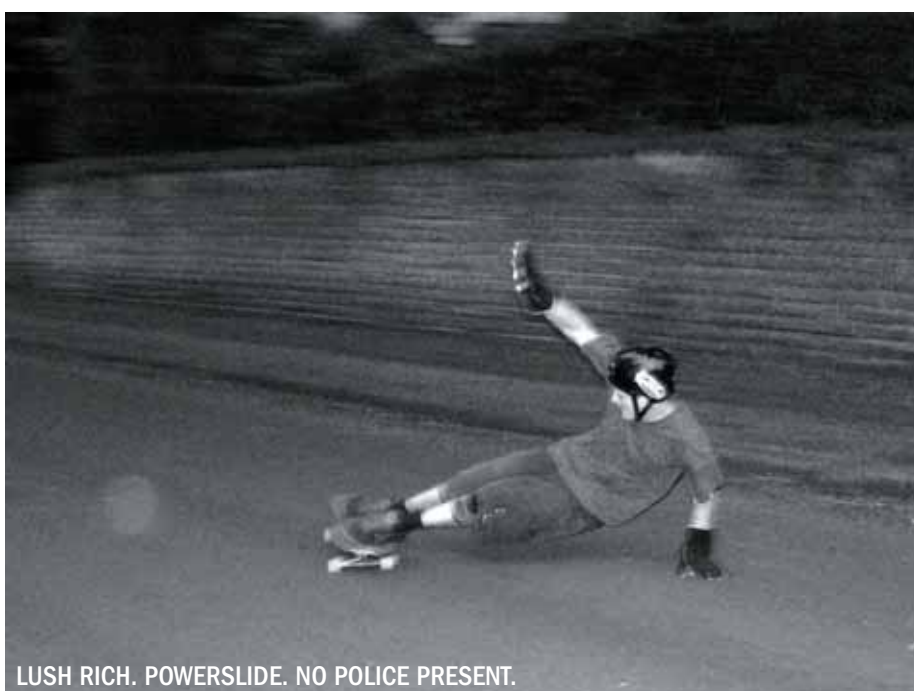
Rich Yeah but it's a bit harsh...

Ross Some people are a bit harsh...

Rich Who would you kill to bring back Jimi Hendrix?

Ross Well, I think Bush doesn't deserve to live any more than Jimi Hendrix, old George Dubya, but he's an easy target, it's an obvious one

Scuz It's a probably a fair one as well. And that concludes the interview with Lush Longboards. Cheers guys!!



2004 ATBA UK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thankfully **Paul Butler** could make it to the first two rounds of the 0800Reverse ATBA-UK Championships, even if Scuz couldn't. We did, however, make it to round three! And competed. Badly.

So, Round 1 of the '0800 Reverse' ATBA UK 2004 championships. Wow, what a mouthful, especially if you've just walked up hill to get the mic and your out of breath slightly, (eh, Mr Birkbeck?). Well it was the first event of the year, a long way to travel for us northerners but there was a very respectable turn out off over 170 competitors for the boarder cross on the Saturday. I arrived on Friday afternoon to find practise fully underway complete with full uplift service which carried on way into the evening (big props and thanks to the guys at Haredown).

The course itself was very fast and challenging and went a little something like this:

Out the start gate and down the ramp. Over two enormous rollers and down a longish grass straight where the all important carving, speed checking, straight lining or whatever was done before you headed round a gentle right-hander, over three rollers down to a lefthander switchback berm. Then straight across into a right hander switchback berm over a roller and down and round a long sweeping left into two rollers, the second of which was much larger than the first, straight into a flat 90 degree right over very loose ground and then straight down very fast into a bomb hole before shooting out of that over the finish line.

IT WAS HARD, FAST AND TOOK NO PRISONERS AS THOSE WITH BROKEN BONES FROM THE WEEKEND WILL TESTIFY

The course was very fast with lots of loose lumps of flint and chalk (many thanks to those who kept brushing the course), in many cases the races and heats were won or lost in the first two corners, taking too much speed into either if you didn't have the skill or balls to hold it proved fatal for many riders, myself included!

At this point I feel the need to give props to all those riders who were racing this course as their first race, it was hard, fast and took no prisoners as those with broken bones from the weekend will testify (get well soon all), of all the courses we will race this season I reckon this was possibly the harshest, so well done for stepping up and giving it a go.

As well as lots of new faces there were all the usual suspects as well, it never fails to give me a real buzz watching the elite of the sport in all the age categories fighting it out in the semis, quarters and finals. There was some spectacular racing, overtaking, undertaking on inside lines and crashes, we had it all.

Some of the best riding all day came from the under 18s category where a few of the guys who have just moved up from the under 14s are really mixing it with the older guys in that category.

RIDERS HAVE REALLY UPPED THE STANDARD THIS YEAR IN TERMS OF FREESTYLE, MORE OF THE HARDER TRICKS ARE BEING PULLED HIGHER, FASTER AND CLEANER.

Its clear that some riders have been working very hard over the winter and are back pushing harder than ever at the boundaries of this sport, also good to see in the open final is the once great English/American divide being annihilated, it was won by Leon Robbins but there was no more than a couple of board lengths between him and Mark Pettifer who was charging hard, right on his tail - its going to be a great season this year.

I can't tell you what happened on Saturday night because for reasons I'm not going into I wasn't there, instead I was in the only club for miles around, in of all places Bognor Regis, Shieks was the name and I shall not be making a return visit! (Bet you will - Ed.)

So from the blur of Saturday night to the sun and rain shower of Sunday morning. The weather was mostly good for the freestyle apart from one large rain shower, which stopped play for a while, but once the run in had dried out and the landing had been deemed safe the battle commenced.

Riders have really upped the standard this year in terms of freestyle, more of the harder tricks are being pulled higher, faster and cleaner. The standouts for me at this comp were the young rippers pulling super clean flips with all manner of grabs, the people landing rodeos, one footers, one footed 3's (what will Mr Robbins think of next?) and Laurie Barnes pulling the phatest, largest, sweetest, tweaked out mute grab I've ever had the pleasure to witness, personally I'd rather see a simple trick like that pulled well and super clean than someone binning a poor rotation. Props must go out to those trying stuff for the first time in the comps including our own team north rippers, Paul T and Will, who both went "flippin" crazy. Paul gaining the loss of his lungs in the process due to broken ribs. Ouch.

Well done to everyone who rode, big thanks to Haredown and the ATBA, Get well soon to all the injured, and see you soon for the next episode. Now we're racing!

RESULTS

BOARDER X - U14

1. Alex Morgan
2. Lester Shrimpton
3. Josh Holcombe

BOARDER X - U18

1. Renny Myles
2. Tom Kirkman
3. Jack Herriot

BOARDER X - LADIES

1. Rosie Wilson
2. Sacha Bush
3. Jos Kirkman

BOARDER X - MASTERS

1. Steve Birkbeck
2. Malcom Seward
3. Dave McBean

BOARDER X - OPEN

1. Leon Robbins
2. Mark Pettifer
3. Tim Jones

FREESTYLE - U14

1. James Sleigh
2. Jack Wells
3. Pascoe Kell-Sinclair

FREESTYLE - U18

1. Tom Kirkman
2. David Compton
3. Renny Myles

FREESTYLE - LADIES

1. Kat Onions
2. Jos Kirkman
3. Niki Forcast

FREESTYLE - MASTERS

1. Steve Birkbeck
2. John Poole
3. Andrew Ramsey

FREESTYLE - OPEN

1. Leon Robbins
2. Alex Downie
3. Chris McCarthy

RESULTS BY DANGEROUS BROTHERS
www.dangerbros.com

words by paul butler
photos by paul crilley

ROUND ONE



JOS KIRKMAN, RACING TOWARDS A 3RD PLACE.



THE
0800REVERSE
ATBA-UK
CHAMPIONSHIP
SERIES 2004

ATBA-UK
ALL TERRAIN BOARDING ASSOCIATION
www.atbauk.org



LEON ROBBINS, BEING BLOODY CLEVER, IN MUCKY JEANS.



RENNY IN FRONT. HE'LL BE SMILING ABOUT THAT.



DIRTSURFER BEN SHOWING US HIS RING.



ROUGH AND TUMBLE. OLD MEN ROLLING ABOUT IN THE MUCK.

It was all the way down to The Big Sheep mountainboard centre in North Devon for round two of the ATBA 0800 Reverse 2004 Championships or something like that. Not sure what order all that should be in but it looks about right. It was a bloody long way down there for all of us from up north, unless like me you lumped the comp together with a holiday and went down for the whole week before.

The track, well what can I say, an utter joy to ride. It was loads of fun, made for some very close racing and what with you being able to see practically all of it from start to finish made it great for spectators. The only slightly negative comments I heard were "its too short", which I'd translate as "I love it and the ride is over too soon", and "its not fast enough". Well that's all down to the gradient of the hill.

Big respect to the guys down at South West Mountain Board Centre who have done more work in the past year developing the track than most of you would realise, I was down there a year ago and could hardly recognize the track as so many improvements and changes had been made. Big thanks goes out to all those that helped us assemble the start gate the weekend before the race and to Nik Wainright (complete with only one arm) and Leon who worked on the track most of the week leading up to the comp and some of the week before that.

The track: four rollers into a small step up that some people were jumping, straight into a 90 degree bermed corner, where the faster guys were ignoring the berm and taking the cheeky inside line, straight into a gentle left, down to a triple. Some jumped the first two and some jumped the last two; most pumped the lot.

Right around the next bermed corner over a larger double that only the elite riders were jumping (and even then not always!) down round a gentle left where only goofy riders were using the berm, over a small table top and round a long sweeping right with a low berm then over three rollers, which were very deep and managed to spit a lot of riders of the middle roller before they'd got the measure of them and then over the finish line, up a fly off jump, large in the middle and smaller at the sides, which Mr Kirkman had the audacity to back flip off at the end of one of his runs, after coming in first (for a change). The cheeky sod.

With a turn out of 214 riders and a course accessible to all competent riders there was some insanely close racing and fighting for lines. Qualifying for the open was insane with the bottom half of those qualifying being only separated by hundredths of seconds, but the line has to be drawn somewhere and if your below it and miss out on qualifying by a hundredth of a second it sucks (I know, 33rd at Haredown) but hey, that's racing. See you at round three for another go.

A first for the UK race series at this round, and not without some comments and a bit of

controversy, was allowing a Dirtsurfer to race head to head with mountain boards. It was a bit of a trial to see how it went, now on this particular course I saw the bigger wheels having no particular advantage and I had no problem with him racing against us.

The rider in question was the infamous Ben Sykes, easily the best Dirtsurfer rider in the country. If I had to choose any rider on a dirt

ALEX DOWNEY WAS ON TOP FORM... PULLING HUGE FRONT FLIPS OFF THE FIRST TABLE AND MANAGED TO YET AGAIN KNOCK LEON ROBBINS OFF THE TOP SPOT IN FREESTYLE.

surfer to race down a course against, it would be him. Like I said I didn't have a problem with him riding against us boarders, on this course, usually my personal opinion wouldn't count for much, but seeing as Ben was in my heat racing against me - I think it counts somewhat. As far as I'm aware the other two guys in our heat weren't bothered either. As it happens Ben didn't qualify, only just, but that's how it was so I guess the discussion is over... for now.

You can check the final results of all the categories to the right, but I have to say it was nice to see a couple different faces in the open final; Ant Wilson (ATBShop) and Nathan Jenkins (Coastal ATB).

One last mention goes to the weather which blessed us with sun all day and a nice wind which although slowed us down on the track, stopped us sweating our tits off in our body armour while we were waiting for our runs.

Sunday. The freestyle was able to run in a slightly different format due the excellent facilities provided by the centre at the Big Sheep, as you'd expect being the home of the UK's best free styler. The freestyle set up was somewhere between a big jump, and a slopestyle, having to jumps consecutively to try your stuff on.

The first was about 12ft long on top, the second 6ft. I wasn't there as I had to go home but I have it on good authority that most riders enjoyed the set up and it provided all those watching with a thoroughly enjoyable display, two for the price of one so to speak. As you'd expect, Alex Downey was on top form on home turf pulling huge front flips off the first table and managed to yet again knock Leon Robbins off the top spot in freestyle.

Yay for UK. All that help Leon's been giving the UK seems to have come back and bit him on the ass, although it has to be said barely leaving teeth marks!

Next stop, round three at Out To Grass in Hereford. July 3rd and 4th. See you there!

RESULTS

BOARDER X - U14

1. Chad Harding
2. Josh Holcombe
3. Alex Morgan

BOARDER X - U18

1. Tom Kirkman
2. Laurie Kaye
3. Renny Myles

BOARDER X - LADIES

1. Diana Shepherdson
2. Jos Kirkman
3. Sacha Bush

BOARDER X - MASTERS

1. Steve Birkbeck
2. Scott Leadbitter
3. Clive Galway

BOARDER X - OPEN

1. Leon Robbins
2. Chris McCarthy
3. Nathan Jenkins

FREESTYLE - U14

1. James Sleigh
2. Pascoe Kell-Sinclair
3. Chad Harding

FREESTYLE - U18

1. Renny Myles
2. Tom Kirkman
3. I G Wilkinson

FREESTYLE - LADIES

1. Kat Onions
2. Jos Kirkman
3. Natalie Reynolds

FREESTYLE - MASTERS

1. Andrew Ramsey
2. Matt Shipp
3. John Poole

FREESTYLE - OPEN

1. Alex Downey
2. Leon Robbins
3. Chris McCarthy

RESULTS BY DANGEROUS BROTHERS
www.dangerbros.com

words by paul butler
photos by paul crilley

ROUND TWO

2004 ATBA UK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Scuz organised? Now there's a question – the answer is usually no, but for the third round of the 0800 Reverse UK ATBA series, at the Out To Grass mountain boarding centre, the answer was finally YES!

We were actually on site by about 2pm Friday. The site was already quite busy, few members of Team MEBA, and Team BAD kicking about as well as a few LARD Asses. Ah the luxury of pitching a tent by daylight – and riding the course before the races start, pure intoxicating luxury.

The course was looking lovely. Mostly the same as the event last year, the course being about the same width and following the same general direction, but before you come up to the first berm and drop into the more inclined part of the course the racing line splits into two distinct lines, with various different features on either side, which is a good idea, giving more than one racing line down the whole of the course.

The rest is fairly similar to last years course, but with added rollers into and along the first berm, and the last berm is much improved, standing a least a foot higher, the whole course offering plenty of room for full on 4 man racing action.

Friday afternoon saw the riding getting a good

I WAS AFFORDED THE LUXURY OF A PRACTISE RUN, AND FOLLOWED SAM WARRILOW'S NOT INSIGNIFICANT MOUTH DOWN THE COURSE, CATCHING UP WITH IT SLIGHTLY

practise in, but battling with the uphill winds that had decided to prevail for the weekend.

The Out To Grass boardercross course is quite famous now, in fact the centre itself is well known as far as I am aware, especially after the foam pit installation, but as a result of Ian Johnson's taste in installation art, the centre is set to beat the pants out of anything by Tracy Emin, or anything in Charles Saatchi's (now somewhat black and crispy) collection!! The centrepiece of this now international standard centre is the slope style course. Around 175M long, boasting so many different lines, it truly is something to aspire to, to be inspired by and to learn. It is as far as I am aware the only installation of its kind and magnitude in the UK, possibly the only one at all on our raped and dying planet. It will not be the last I am sure!

Registration for racing is now mostly completed the day before the racing starts, which is a good edition to a smoothly run competition. I was afforded the luxury of a practise run, and followed Sam Warrilow's not insignificant mouth down the course, catching up with it slightly, an uphill wind still slowing the transition from the top section of the course into the first berm,

dropping into the more inclined part of the course. The wind had dropped significantly from the day before though, and the eager faces at the start gate, queuing up, and fifty riders deep told me today was going to be a good one.

So as the under 16's got underway, and the wind dropped more we were treated to a mixture and sunshine and rain, and young riders showing how much they have improved, James Sleigh, Josh Holcombe and Josh Campbell all looking strong and fast. Everything ran so fast and smooth, much better than any comp I had previously attended. Next up was the under 18's, which these days is easily as interesting a race as the Open class. Racing was fast and tight, Bieran Martlew, Renny Myles, Tom Kirkman, Laurie Kaye, all the usual suspects were there, really giving it some.

I honestly think the boundaries between the skill levels of this class are practically non-existent in comparison to the open class. Despite this being only the third competition, I have had the opportunity to attend, it is obvious that the standard of racing (if not riding in all its disciplines) has vastly improved, the amount of and severity of crashes having dropped significantly from the same event last year.

I don't personally know too many of the younger riders, but the Scrub team, OTG team, and the Ride The Hill riders dominated. I saw much more awareness, and what Stuart Kirk has designated 'race craft'; riders aware of themselves and their competitors at all times on the course, looking for spaces and opportunities, jumping doubles, jumping parts of triples and table tops. All good stuff.

Next up were the under 18's, again all the usual suspects still dominating, but with a few new names I haven't heard of before pushing the boundaries a bit, Ig Willson qualifying, the Herriots, obviously, on their home turf, tearing it up. Renny Myles and Tom Kirkman, as usual being the main men to watch this season.

The Ladies looked to be stepping it up again this year, Dianna Shephardson was all brakes and wobbles last year but flying this year eventually coming in first, Jos Kirkman following, with Niki Forecast in third. Those results are a bit of a change from last year, but partially because the female contingent is slightly lacking this year, due mostly to injuries in an earlier event, both Rosie Wilson, and Nik Wainright sustaining breakages to the fore arms. Get well soon ladies.

My qualifiers were quite late down the list so I was able to enjoy watching the majority of the open riders whiz past with a speed that quite honestly had me concerned that I wasn't up to racing!

The rider everyone was there to watch was obviously Mr Leon Robbins, who does have a habit of stealing the show, passing the finish line before most of the riders in his heat had left the gate! If am right though Leon did have

a little bit more competition from the UK this year than last, two new names making an appearance on the podium, Wayne Kent and Nathan Jenkins (well done!), closely followed by the likes of Chris Mcarthy, Brett Levett, the Tathams, etc.

While some new faces on the podiums is always a good thing to see, it was the usual teams dominating, SWAT, Team BAD, the MBS team need no introduction these days. Its always quite difficult to tell who actually won the race from the top, with the course being over 500M long, and dropping away sharply around 150M from the gate, but it is usually the rider who is in front as the first berm approaches that ends up going over the finish first.

The organisation was excellent, and it was only around 2pm when it was my turn to step up to the gate for the 2nd time. And if this comps write up reads a little disjointedly, all is about to become clear. Dropping out of the gate I had a good start, level with Mr Mark Pettifer of the MBS team, pumping the rollers like a good un, just to stay with him, when it came to the first doubles, I knew that if I wanted to have a chance of staying with Mark, I needed to jump the rollers.

By all accounts I did.....

...and then... nothing... I remember Duncan Cleary leaning over me saying something in Scottish, and the medic asking me if I was on medication, and then the inside roof of a helicopter, and hospital. Poo.

Oh well, rubbings racing, and these things happen. At least I wasn't kept in overnight, and having the account of the finals related to me by others fortunate enough not to have been blasting about the skies in a helicopter, while not as exiting as watching first hand, at least I am not a) dead, or b) dead. Oh the joy of being alive.

As I returned, (major thanks to Andy Watson and Big Tim from Team MEBA for coming to pick up a smelly disorientated idiot from Worcester general) the results had just been read out I think although to be honest my memory of the rest of that evening could be a little better!

And then as the sun dropped it was time to party in the foam pit, which, while good, wasn't as good as other parties I have attended here (ahem!!), nice weather outside doesn't make for an ace indoor party, I still think the Scuz social was better as parties go (if I may say so myself, thoroughly biased as I am!), but then today had been a serious competition, and not a presentation in incompetence.

The music played, the hyper energetic kids rode and rode, thoroughly enjoying the foam pit, I drank a bottle of wine, made a smelly cig, and took my sorry bruised ass off to my nice new tent.

Next morning I woke up, hence the continuation

ROUND THREE

of this drivel, with a headache (nothing to do with my choice of supper), completely unable to ride - dead stiff, rib knacking, shoulder swollen, hip scabby, and my consciousness bent slightly to one side, like a lamp post after a night out with a drunk driver.

However, the blessing in disguise was that the pressure was off for me to perform as a rider, and instead the pressure was internal, to the right hand side of my forehead. But my eyes were working, and so was my gob (no change there then).

And so after a leisurely start to the day, I got a prime spot for the freestyle, and watched the best riders from the UK, and one or two from a bit further, play out a game of skill and precision amongst the mounts of dirt that formed this, probably THE premier slope style dirt park in the land. Tom Kirkman doesn't do small, Renny Myles doesn't do sketchy, and Leon Robbins almost does corked 720s. OTG's team manager and ATBSports rider Tim Jones got a fat with an indy-grabbed backflip. Pete Tatham almost got his corked 180 flips landed, lots of riders taking on the rails and transfers, the Herriot brothers particularly boning out the grabs superbly (although it has to be said these two looked better in practise than actually competing - everything changed when the pressure is on).

Another visit by the ambulance to pick up one of the premier UK freestyler technicians left little effective competition for Leon Robbins. Apparently Alex Downie's injury isn't too serious however, and he'll be back racing and riding in the next competition up in Scotland for the next round.

Chris Pudding of team noSno stuck a perfect 720 over one of the bigger table tops; our northern brethren got their back flip attempts out, and may have been closer if it wasn't for the slight uphill wind that was pushing the competitors that bit harder to get the speed up for the bigger tricks. Again the riding was much improved all round in all age categories, even in the under 18's inverted manoeuvres are becoming almost standard. I think mountain boarding is not far off ready to hit the mainstream.

The weather really improved the vibe for today as well, the sun deciding to shine on the proceedings, reminding me a little of last years jam, my first comp, again to beat up to ride, and again the riding going off to the sound of Hip[Hop beats, the faint but distinctive smell of good weed and old pads. Proper good vibes, and good living, this is what summers are about. All in all a fine weekend.

Big shout outs and respect to all the riding teams and crews. Team Bad, MEBA, SWAT, LARD, Team North, Team Bol X, SOBA, SPAM EAT Dirt, To Stuart Kirk and the ATBA, NoSno, MBS. All the sponsors of the UK series, 0800 reverse, Adventura, ATB Mag, ATBShop, Blueearth, Dangerous Brothers, Dirt N Surf, Exit, Lush ATB, Maxtrack, Ride The Hill, Rollin' Hills, Scrub, Tantrum, Trampa.

Thank to all the commentators, to the DJ's, to the food crew, thank to Ian Johnson, and most of all (at least for me!), thanks to the Medic.

See you all at round 4.

RESULTS

BOARDER X - U14

1. Chad Harding
2. Josh Holcombe
3. Alex Morgan

BOARDER X - U18

1. Tom Kirkman
2. Laurie Kaye
3. Renny Myles

BOARDER X - LADIES

1. Diana Shepherdson
2. Jos Kirkman
3. Sacha Bush

BOARDER X - MASTERS

1. Steve Birkbeck
2. Scott Leadbitter
3. Clive Galway

BOARDER X - OPEN

1. Leon Robbins
2. Chris Mccarthy
3. Nathan Jenkins

FREESTYLE - U14

1. James Sleight
2. Pascoe Kell-Sinclair
3. Chad Harding

FREESTYLE - U18

1. Renny Myles
2. Tom Kirkman
3. I G Wilkinson

FREESTYLE - LADIES

1. Kat Onions
2. Jos Kirkman
3. Natalie Reynolds

FREESTYLE - MASTERS

1. Andrew Ramsey
2. Matt Shipp
3. John Poole

FREESTYLE - OPEN

1. Alex Downie
2. Leon Robbins
3. Chris McCarthy

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DUNNO WHAT HE'S GRINNING ABOUT.



COSMO BOY, IN FRONT OF THE LENS AGAIN.



TIM PADDOCK GRINDING HIS WAY TO THIRD PLACE. ON ONE WHEEL, BY THE LOOKS OF IT.



PROPER HAMMERING IT THROUGH THE OTG WOODS.

Here I am again, trying to write a story months after the event happened. Not entirely due to laziness this time it has to be said, I have just completed an academic qualification to get me into Uni, hopefully Bristol. Best excuse for going to the most popular region in the UK for Mountain boarding our lass will have ever heard!!

Anyway, it had been a rather stressful week, was the weather going to let us play? Was anyone going to come? Was Ian going to get the foam pit finished in time for us to play in if the weather turned against us?

It was very nearly cancelled at the last minute, very nearly. Looking back, I'm glad we went ahead.

WE HOOKED UP WITH OUR NORTHERN BRETHREN, INCLUDING SKULLY, A SKATER WHO RODE THE 150+ MILES DOWN TO THE CENTRE FROM LANCASHIRE ON A 50CC MOPED, ILLEGALLY. NOW THAT IS hardcore!

The weather had been making little promises to us all week, giving us reasonable bouts of sunny weather...until Thursday night, when it chucked it down. Friday dawned bright enough, and I have to say I wasn't the most focussed individual on the team that day, watching

sporadic showers pelt the windows of my call centre prison.

With the newly christened Scuz-mobile laden liberally with gear, prizes and boards, as well as myself, Welly, Scrub rider Rhys Crilley, face plant Eric (of Scuz Videozine fame), and (picked up along the way) leek eating Leeds based Welsh Skydiving nutcase Chris something or other, it was a long, cramped although not necessarily unpleasant drive down to everyone's favourite UK centre, the might Out to Grass.

The buzz me and Welly felt as we half pulled and half slid into the OTG car park to see not one or two cars parked forlornly under the cloudless moonlit sky, but a good 30 or 40 vehicles, and tents, maybe 100 people all chilling out, drinking and getting the social vibe on.

Not ones for being unsociable ourselves, my tent was soon up, and the brews started flowing. Leon and Nik's battle bus standing watch ominously over the proceedings. We hooked up with our northern brethren, including Scully, a skater who drove the 150+ miles down to the centre from Lancashire on a 50cc moped, illegally. Now that is hardcore!

I met some rather un-sober members of SOBA (Southern Off-road Boarding Association) and the Welsh crew MEBA, who were featured in the last issue had made it down, as well as a good contingent from the big smoke, team Lardass.

After a good selection of good and not so good tunes from car stereos we bed down for the night, some of my apprehension about the chances of success or failure subsiding, and with fingers crossed I longed with every part of

me for a dry day the next day. I also felt guilty, having completely forgotten to pack the tent and sleeping bag Chris had given me in Leeds before he set off home. 'Oops!' He took it well.

Next morning it was dry, as well as windy. The border cross was still running disappointingly slow, and after a warm up run or two (and breakfast obviously!!), we trekked over to the 2002 course, which while slow, was out of the wind and offering a nice run into the last table top which was nicely shaped for a spot of freestyle action, ace air coming from Dave Compton of Lard.

Over on the 2003 Slope style section Myles Ziebart was getting his first back flips out (a word to the industry – watch for Myles this season in the freestyle - very promising UK rider), and the weekend looked like it was going to take shape nicely.

We rode a quick free-ride section in the woods near the 2002 course, and the courses started to dry out, which was good, as the wind picked up, which wasn't – as the wind was blowing up the course making racing and the slope-style a waste of time, just what I had been worried about.

As the day started to wear on and people began to start moving more regularly between the different sections, looking for something a bit more challenging to ride, and what looked like boredom started setting in, the heavens opened; the rain fully kicking in for what looked like the rest of the day, following perfectly the local shipping forecasts which Ian Johnson had been nervously following for the last three days.



PROPER BALLS OUT RIDING.

Bummer.

At any other centre this would have heralded the end of a rather unsuccessful and badly planned event (much as you'd probably expect from us!) which would have been an unmitigated disaster for the zine, especially after the apparent success of the ATBMag World Freestyle championships. However, diligent planning (on behalf of Ian and OTG, rather than us!) meant that all was not lost, on the contrary, everything turned out rather well! It was time to retire to the barn for a foam party of the kind that unequivocally shit all over anything offered in Ibiza or Essex.

Ian's friend (Martin, I believe his name is, formerly of the Fine Young Cannibals!) had a sound system set up on the gantry, where one of the most awesome boarding related sites I had ever seen was unfolding before my eyes. I stood transfixed with other fun seekers as riders queued up the steep steps up on to the 25' high gantry, where against the back wall, a wooden platform stood with people strapping

in, to roll into a near vert drop of around 20', running out onto a wooden runway, and into a 12' radius 6' high wooden kicker, and into a proper kids bouncy castle full of foam, they very foam requested by the centre in its advert in an earlier version of this zine.

RESPECT TO EVERYONE WHO HIT, MORE RESPECT TO EVERYONE WHO KNAKED THEMSELVES TRYING IT AND THEN DID IT AGAIN

The barbeque was warming up, as was the temperature, due to the thoughtful provision of an outdoor heater. The no-Sno team were having it, as were Gaz from Lard, little Joe Dixon, a Maxtrack rider, Scrub rider Chewy the MEBA crew, everyone was having it, some showing good style, some showing expert stupidity. Scully the Hells Angel Moped nutter from up

Preston way was bashing out big 360's on a decrepit old skateboard! It was all good.

As requested, loads of people had brought down CD's, and the music raged, and ranged from ska and punk, through serious metal hardcore, to hip Hop and Drum n Bass., Riders were going off left right and centre, drinking, dancing, socialising, the tricks into the pit were just insane, double back flip attempts, front and back flips with 180's in, rodeos, got a good pic somewhere of Sam Warrilow's mouth doing a right tweaked method. As confidence grew, more people stepped up to take on the ramp, even Ian was talking about having a go at one point, well it might have been Ian saying he was going to have a go, or it might have been the drink talking on his behalf. Either way it was a PART-A.

It is one thing to watch a rider come belting through the drop in the gantry, on the runway and into the pit, via over more than a second of airtime, it is definitely something else standing up there, looking down into the drop yourself,

THE SCUZ/OTG SOCIAL

nerve racking to say the least, heightened by the fact that all the riders who have done it before are waiting impatiently for you to take your turn to get another go themselves. Respect to everyone who hit, more respect to everyone who knacked themselves trying it and then did it again. I knacked myself, it was my third go before I even got to the kicker!

For me it was just nice to have a big session with a good cross section of the UK scene, which was basically a party at the same time. Sometimes at the proper UK competitions it can be quite stressful, you're concentrating hard on racing, and who you're up against, and what event is coming next, and you don't always get to spend quality time with the riders you get on well with, as it was I got to put faces to many more people from the message board, and have a decent catch up with those I hadn't seen for a while, all at the same time and raising the profile of this here rag. Bonus all round!

As the night wore on the riding increased in mentalness as the riders doing the ramp got used to how it feels, and as more riders dropped out knackered to start drinking, the hardcore few were going crazier and crazier to entertaining the rest. As the riding started to come to the end, and with the party in full swing, people decided to start chucking themselves board less down the ramp, and on mattresses (the record was five people facing backwards!) and the air was sweet with punked up tunery and aromatic combustibles.

Things eventually started to wind down, and the sound was turned off in anticipation of good weather the next day, although as soon as we left the barn it was obvious to all that we were to be denied. Ian invited us into the house for a nightcap, and we gladly accepted, Welly being very glad indeed as reports were that his tent was all but running around the field in the gale, and Chris had no sleeping bag. 'Oops' again.

We spoke to Ian at length about the centre, and got a worthwhile and inspiring insight into how, why and almost why not, Out To Grass has become the centre it is today.

As a snowboarder, Ian Johnson hadn't always wanted to be just a farmer, and so when he saw mountain boarding, he became interested, realising the sports potential immediately. The foot and mouth epidemic that touched so many farmers had also had an impact, but obviously the rest is history, and would have been consigned to history were it not for the considerable efforts of Ian and the UK ATB scene. A certain individual living in the vicinity had taken objection to the facility, as OTG started to become the centre we all know and love. The mistake that had been made on behalf of Out To Grass was an oversight in planning permission that was to become very costly. The tense stand off between the two interests eventually ended in court. Ian openly acknowledges how close OTG came to becoming a full time farm again, and for all the work put in by Ian in appealing to the local authorities sensibilities, he believes it was the letters sent on behalf of OTG by all the UK teams and riders, that helped swing it.

Swing it, however, it did and while the future of the centre is still by no means set in stone, the future looks a lot rosier than it did even 10

- 12 months ago. The local resident who was so opposed to our fun has since moved on, which obviously helps significantly. Ian was pleased with the way the weekend was turning out and set about explaining the ethos of the centres new attraction...

'The American riders are so well looked after facility wise' Ian explains. 'They are leaving the

THIS TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST BADLY ORGANISED SHAMBLES I HAVE EVER HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING. I SUPPOSE WE WERE ENTIRELY TO BLAME, OH WELL!

UK scene behind, not because its more popular over there, or there are many more riders over there, but purely and simply because there is more money and better facilities. I've seen the videos and heard of the facilities that Leon Robbins and Saer White use to practise all through the winter. Its no wonder they come out in summer and clean up.'

'It's not fair on the British kids, many of whom are every bit as talented and committed as the MBS team, but who simply don't have the available resources for practising in to get to that level.'

'You know - as a farmer it has always been my job, and in my interests to make the land work hard, to produce the best results, to get the most out of the available space. Now that a lot of the farm is becoming a mountain boarding park, my objectives are exactly the same, and that's why I started the OTG team (with Tim as manager). All the kids are from the local area - the Herriotts dad has been my doctor for years, Jack and Will were two of the first riders to come here.'

'While I recognise that lots of kids need facilities like these, I just wanted to try and do something, and use this land, this centre I have to try and produce a world class team from the local scene the local area. To give some of the kids from round here the kind of opportunities the MBS team have been privileged enough to have had.'

A noble cause, a worthy task, a cool bloke. After that inspiring little conversation, which endeared Ian to us a lot, and having cleaned him out of posh old port, apricot brandy, and some single malt whiskey or other it was time to hit the sack, a soggy sack it was too. I was fine, having replaced my un-tardis (which had repeatedly been the bane of my outdoors ATB expeditions) with a more reasonably sized Slug like tent. Welly's tent however had sort of snapped/blown down and was openly and quite happily flapping in the gale, rain water puddling in the inner compartments, where the likes of Chris was sleeping, with no bedding. Err, 'Oops?'

Welly slept in the car, Rhys slept in the foam pit, Eric slept in the tent, I don't think Chris slept at all. I slept in my clothes and Leon and Nik slept in the Battle Bus, the lucky bastards.



SAM WARRILOW'S MOUNTAIN BOARDING



HI MUM.

'IT'S NOT FAIR ON THE BRITISH KIDS, MANY OF WHOM ARE EVERY BIT AS TALENTED AND COMMITTED AS THE MBS TEAM, BUT WHO SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PRACTISING IN TO GET TO THAT LEVEL.' - IAN JOHNSON





ALMOST A COVER SHOT.



LOOKS LIKE TIM PADDOCK AGAIN. NICE ONE.



OUR CHEWY GERRIN' SUM AIR. 'AV IT!

The next morning was bright and very soggy, my mind felt not so bright, but fairly soggy, kind of like I had been at a party or something - strange that.

The main 2003 course and the 2002 course were very soft and slow, as was the slope style, then the wind picked up again, just the kind of conditions I had been hoping to avoid. I was too hung over to ride as it happened, so after a quick free-ride in the woods it was time to hit the foam pit again, where we set about attempting to hold a best trick competition.

This turned out to be the most badly organised shambles I have ever had the pleasure of attending. I suppose we were entirely to blame, oh well!

There was however some absolutely outstanding riding, Dave Compton from Lard nearly getting a full double back flip landed, Tim Jones getting very close to super styled backside 180 back flips, little Joe Dixon, showed that short in stature doesn't mean lacking in faculties. We ended up kind of just giving the prizes away a bit haphazardly, to who ever looked in need. Oh well!

While the comp was a total shambolic disgrace, I think most people just found our complete and utter incompetence highly amusing. We didn't half show ourselves up when the organised crews arrived, i.e. Team BAD and the ATBSports crew. In fact the only crews not represented that weekend were the Scottish team, for obvious reasons i.e. distance, and it was just a social.

And so it was soon time to load the car up, thankfully having got rid of some prizes which helped make a fair bit more room, we ended up leaving happy stiff tired and hung-over, with a case of Stella and a hundred quid, from Ian, to say cheers for bringing loads of business to his centre. Mint! Can't say fairer than that eh? Apparently we had over 140 people pay in.

And so I think the weekend was a success, despite the comp being a joke, and the weather being mostly awful - we had a good time, and that was why I put in the effort. Some said it was even better than the ATBmag world freestyle championships. While I disagree, the two events were wholly on a totally different level, and our competition was a merry display of discombobulation (how's that for a word?!). Ours was a lot more chilled (it wasn't really a comp in the true sense of the word, and wasn't really supposed to be), the weather was a lot warmer (but a lot wetter, which was out of everyone's control anyway), I certainly wasn't about to go round like the god of boarding, dishing out tellings off, getting stressed or turning people away after inviting them.

So anyway, I think we shall be running another Scuz social. We have plans to have it as just a daft weekends riding and showing off at the beginning and the end of the season - with all or as many of the ATB crews as possible, a party, music, and maybe some general giveaways to throw into the crowd.

We can certainly organise that, but I think the hats go off to J from ATBmag and particularly

the elected ATBA for their considerable skills and effort in organising and running comps. Scuz will be leaving it to the professionals in future.

Thanks go out to MEBA, LARD Ass, Team BAD, SOBA and SWAT for showing up, Leon and Nik, the Preston crew particularly Scully, Jack and Will Herriot, Jack Herniman, Scuz writer Pam, and Bloke (sorry, I'm terrible with names!), Joe Dixon, Dave Compton, Myles Ziebart, ATBSports, Team no-Sno, Gary and Josh Holcombe, and anyone who came down and was not affiliated with any of the crews mentioned.

For the prizes we thank Exit mountain boards, Wentworth Action sports, MEBA again, and Lush Longboards.

A final and extra thanks must go to the hard work of Ian Johnson and Izzie, who made this weekend possible, let me drink their cupboards practically dry, then giving us petrol money for the way home! What a top pair at a top centre.

You all made my weekend rock!

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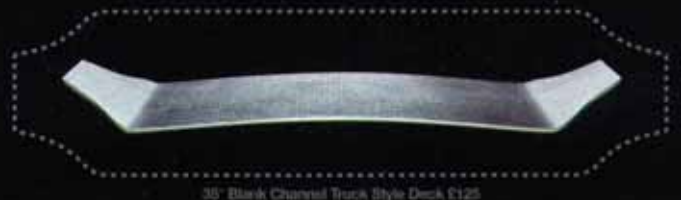
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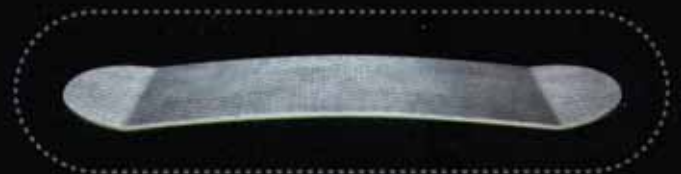
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PADDING... NOT TO BE SNIFFED AT

ALWAYS WEAR A

With both the editors taking serious head injuries but living on to tell the tale, we both know it could have been a lot, lot worse.

No one really wants to wear pads. They can be uncomfortable, they can restrict movement, they don't really help with the image of our sport, and mine absolutely stink. I always wear them though, ever since I started riding with other people.

I remember the first time I went riding with other riders, my first introduction to team north, through Leon and Nik, the two lucky individuals who are currently touring the UK in a big van making some people sick with jealousy, and other gypsy hating types just plain sick. How would you like it if these two smelly hippies started banging round your end on the latest from MBS and noSno? I'd be fine - not everyone's cup of tea though. I digress – as usual.

So anyway, I went over to manc land, expecting Oasis to punch my lights out every time the train stopped at another station. I was soon at Stockport, and shortly after in a car packed with pads and boards, off to the Peak district, and to a place called White Nancy, where the hill was steeeeeep, and quite rutted.

I had been advised upon donning a helmet by Leon, also known as Carlos the jackal, and his majesty Leon the IV amongst other things. I had originally tried to resist, I never used to wear pads skating, and while ATB is different, I thought the pain of off-road to be over rated, and although I was already wearing cheap knees elbows and wrists, I didn't want the helmet. Being bigger and harder looking than me, and way beyond me ability wise, I let Leon indulge his patriarchal approach to new boarders and put the thing on me head, which was just a black piss pot, so wasn't too heavy or cumbersome, and attempted to follow Leon down what accelerated a little like a Ferrari full of plutonium might do. On a scrub easy rider. With no egg shocks.

I went off a little jump, sucking my legs up a bit, and then when I went to put them down again I was facing the wrong way, and fell backwards, getting my helmeted head a right good belt on the floor. Leon was right, I had been wrong, and while I doubt serious injury would have resulted, I was glad to have been wearing that helmet all the same. I have always worn it ever since. After all, it's all about the riding, not the injuries. Safe practises make more sense the more dangerous your sport is. Don't go big wave surfing if you can't swim. You know?

Since that incident, I have always been an advocate of the better safe than sorry type attitude. My partner in off road stupidity hasn't always shared my sentiment, and learnt the hard way (he still knacks himself without proper padding on now and again, so I'm not sure he did learn properly, but I am drilling it into him!). It was the Maxtrack classic event of 2001? And

Mr Moore (don't confuse him with 007) was being introduced to a new UK arrival, the GP Dirtsurfer. Welly has this to say on the matter...

Even almost two years ago, I considered myself to be a fairly accomplished rider. While I doubt I had the Tathams awake at night fearing slaughter on the hills by yours truly - I can ride and on a good day I can ride pretty well. This is why I didn't consider this simple grassy slope any kind of a threat to my health. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and, well, that's about as much as I can remember from that weekend.

The first thing I remember, after coming to, was waking up in a hospital bed and then a brief moment afterwards drenching the nurse stood to my side with vomit. No idea where that came from. Poor lass.

Apparently I'd given my head a pretty severe bump and knocked myself out cold. I still have a blood stained stone, aptly named the Blood Stone, by the northern riders I'd gone along to the event with. So much for the simple grassy slope eh? I didn't leave that Herefordshire hospital until the following friday and spent another week in bed, still dazed and rather confused. And almost two years later, I still have absolutely no idea how it happened. Make no mistake, this demonstrates that even riders with several years experience could REALLY hurt themselves if not equipped with suitable attire, for grassy slopes or otherwise.

Since then I've absolutely refused to ride without a lid, excepting one brief moment of madness at Round 3. Although I didn't get far, or even on my board, before Steve Birkbeck of Team BAD gave me the glare and bollocking that I fully deserved. "Last time I saw you ride without a lid, you didn't come back up the hill for a LONG time."

Most of the time I ride, I do pad up properly. And when I don't, without fail I come home with reminders of where I should have had been wearing protection. And also without fail, Andy gives me a ticking off and a "told you so". The bruises and grazes are subtle reminders of what could have ended up being much worse and perhaps a reminder for next time.

It is very easy to see a hill you ride regularly or even somewhere new you believe you could take on without any bother. I think it comes down to looking after your fellow riders. If they're considering riding without padding, give them a bollocking and hopefully they'll return one in future, should you try to do the same.

One week in hospital? Throwing up on nurses? Not good. This is why when Scuz started last summer in a hail of blood, sweat, dirt and lager; we decided any rider featured in Scuz would be

wearing the proper protective equipment.

When I used to skate I refused to wear pads at all – ever. It is less acceptable to wear pads when skating, and much more acceptable not to. I can't really say whether I would still be skating now if I had bothered to wear protection as I was a street skater, and my injuries were generally sustained by my ankles shins and knees, occasionally ribs testes and head. The bangs on the head never stopped me and handrails to the testes and ribs didn't stop me for long (at least to start with) It was the ankle and knee injuries that eventually forced retirement.

I don't know if padding on the knees, or ankle supports would have increased the longevity of my skateboarding life, but I do know that I will be mountain boarding well into my thirties, partly due to the fact that not having an identity as rider is something that I find depressing (and I bet Birkbecks not the only man with tough cartilage), but partly because the 'always wear pads' ethos of this sport will allow for more knocks to be endured without having to rest excessively.

I would much rather we all look like American Football players and still be able to ride after a knock, than look the business, and one fall means a week off riding while scabs heal, or worse...

I do occasionally see mountain boarding media showing riders without protection, and while this may improve sales, Scuz believe this is highly irresponsible and more likely to damage the future of the sport in the long term. Thankfully such instances are few and far between, and are generally well criticised by other media, and usually by the riders themselves.

While we do have the injuries page, which is a bit of a lighthearted look at people who've done themselves a bit of damage, and while Scuz is seen by many as a bit of a laugh and a joke, we are absolutely serious on the issue of wearing the correct padding and protection.

STAY WITH THE PROGRAM - ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET.

SCUZ PADDING SURVEY RESULTS

We ran a little survey recently on a few message boards as we thought the best judges of the best padding are the ones who wear it. You lot.

Here's what you said.

1. What brand of elbow pads do you use?

Armadillo	3.7%
Dianese	9.3%
Fox Racing	13%
Grit X	13%
McGill	1.9%
Scrub	3.7%
TSG	14.8%
UFO	5.6%
Other	74.1%

2. What brand of knee pads do you use?

Armadillo	3.2%
Dianese	3.2%
Fox Racing	0%
Grit X	0%
McGill	0%
Scrub	3.2%
TSG	12.9%
UFO	0%
Other	77.4%

3. What brand of wrist guards do you use?

McGill	0%
Harbinger	37.5%
Triple 8	3.1%
TSG	15.6%
Other	46.9%

4. What kind of helmet do you use?

Full face	25%
Skate type	48.1%
Both	26.9%

5. What brand of helmet do you own?

661	11.1%
Azonic	0%
Bell	5.6%
Diamond Back	7.4%
Fox Racing	3.7%
Giro	1.9%
Other	77.8%

6. How much have you spent on padding (elbows, wrists, knees, full armour - ie dianese full body armour)

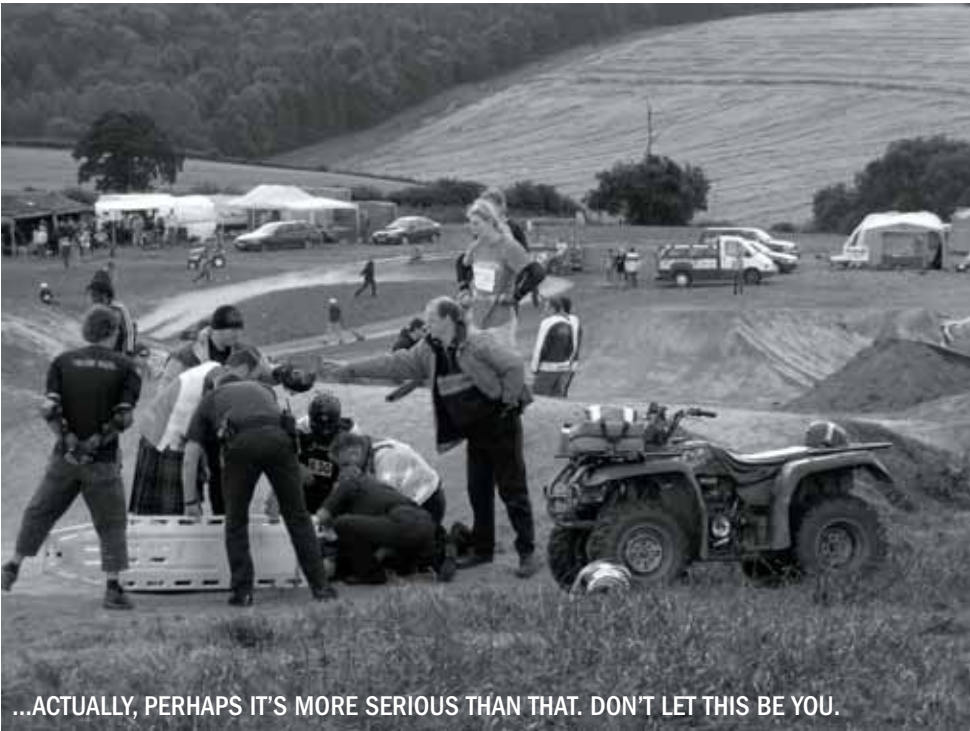
Up to £20	1.9%
Between £21 and £40	9.4%
Between £41 and £60	17%
Between £61 and £90	5.7%
Over £90	66%

7. Have you ever sustained any injuries despite wearing your padding and helmet?

Yes	89.1%
No	10.9%



ANDY W, TAKING A NAP...



...ACTUALLY, PERHAPS IT'S MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT. DON'T LET THIS BE YOU.

It looks like you're a sensible lot and have been wearing the proper padding but still knocking yourselves. This is most likely to be due entirely to the nature of our sport. I would imagine the injuries list on the last page would be a bit longer had you not been wearing all this gear. I wonder if things could be further improved though.

ONE LAST RUN

We've all said it and we've all suffered as a result. **Pam Hill** delves deep into the board riders curse that is "I'll just have one last run..."

To some spectators, mountain boarding is an exciting, dangerous sport tried only by dare-devils/idiots/extremely insane people who must love pain. For those who have tried it and wisely worn protection, it's known to be an amazing, addictive, breath-taking sport usually only resulting in a few bruises, knocks or scratches and an amazing buzz.

For those who are reading, those who have been involved with the scene for a while, who love it and slave to the hills, eye every landscape with a ride in mind, want to push personal boundaries, are completely addicted to the thrill, mountain boarding has it's fair share of accidents and none fatal so far, thankfully. But it is an action sport. Each mountain board event has an unfortunate number of injuries, all resulting from different causes - mistakes, multiple racing, fatigue, board faults and not forgetting the ambiguous unexpected. Yet there seems to be developing a mysterious element of jinx where accidents are concerned.. There's more than a quiet undertone amongst the experienced riders of the possibility of a link between saying "just one last run" and having some kind of fall.

It comes as a warning. It comes as an post-accident cringe, "Oh no! She didn't say "one last run did she?" The consequences of saying those allegedly-jinxed words initially became clear to me when I fell foul of it myself, after only boarding for just over a month or so. I was enjoying a kicker at Coastal and it was soon time to call it a day. I decided to move over to the Boarder X where I'd ridden earlier and said "I'll just get one last run in". Coming off the rolling berm, I came too tight round and ended up on the side of the course. A split second decision to try and rejoin the course meant coming off a drop of maybe half a foot depth but with the wrong angle, I tipped and at some point, when the board kartwheeled over me, twisted my ankle

and sprained it. A little knock to the head made for a few dizzy spells and hopefully a bit more sense in there, the ankle was pretty painful for a day but more annoying was knowing I was out of action for around eight weeks and that I had ignored my body. My legs had been slightly shakey from the

"A LAST RUN FOR NICK RIVIERA RESULTED IN AN OPERATION TO SCREW A FLAKE OF SHOULDER BONE BACK TO HIS ARM AND SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS OUT OF ACTION."

day's exertions about ten minutes before but the adrenalin pumping round my body kept me going for it. Being tired affects judgement and riding ability. I should have stopped after the kicker - hindsight, the ugly bastard. A last run for Nick Riviera resulted in an operation to screw a flake of shoulder bone back to his arm and six to eight weeks out of action. "I put a lot of effort into the run before and should have known from countless times on my bike not to have another."

Yet, looking at it, there's more to this last run thing than tiredness and misjudgement - the latter being something that can happen to anyone at the learning stage, and you've never learnt it all. There's the fact that if you know it's your last run, you pack in as much as you can: for me it was the thought of not riding that course ever again. The line of rollers ahead of me, I didn't want to miss a single one out! It was wanting to get speed up on the homestaight for some big air over the tabletop! I think you can see the idea. This eat-dirt attitude is unfortunately asking for trouble when combined with fatigue-

affected riding ability. Rosie Wilson, 16 of East Hampshire said 'one last run' as her equipment hire time had run out. "It was the first time I'd ever used a NoSno and I was going round a nice fast corner when I caught an edge, performed a stylish half front flip and landed on my collar bone... snappage then followed (for the second time in six months!)" We can't help but want to try and leave things on a good note. "I've tried to avoid saying, 'Its my last run I'll just go for it' and then trying a run or line thats harder than what I have been doing just because its my last run."

We want to make the most or pull a trick we've just perfected. We're on a board of many possibilities, riding in places of amazing ridabilities and who can help us if we want our last ride to be triumphant? But maybe we do need to think about our approach to the final ride of a session and consider others who may be unaware of their own physical limitations. Maybe if we listen to our sensibilities and keep the last run simple, or quit while taking a break or just don't say those three jinxed little words, maybe we'll get home without a detour to the hospital.

Although there are realistic explanations for accidents, jinxing is not easily explained. How is it that actors still will not utter the word "Macbeth" in a theatre? (Yet they'll say "break a leg"??) How freaky does a jinx get? How about when you proclaim your last run downhill and a sheep appears on the track? "Please Shut the Gate" springs to mind but there are no gates on Dartmoor and "the damn walking jumper just refused to get out of the way," says Willy. "I had to swerve to avoid it. Doing this plunged my right wheels into a ditch. I pulled my calf and had to hop the rest of the way down."

Mountain biker, Paul Butler learnt the lesson long and hard over fifteen years of his extreme sport. "I swear to never

ONE LAST RUN...



ever say those dreaded words. I have now adopted the saying "I'll just have another couple of runs" instead, it works much better and means that you can have any number until you feel that the time is right to just leave it alone, works for me."

It works for BAD Team manager Steve Birkbeck too. After years of "skateboarding, littered with such foolishness. Especially when skating ramps, the temptation is always there, you spend all day trying to get a trick dialled, finally do it a couple of times and its time to go home, so "one last run" just so you dont forget what you've learned, it always ends in tears. The other trap is to take one last run but maybe missing a few pads cos you're in the process of packing up, done this many times on skate ramps leaving a nice jammy smear for someone to slide in. Now 'I'll have a couple more' and then leave it at one."

So it seems there may be a way of getting round the jinx! But what if you don't actually vocalise those three words or anything like them? What if you just think it? "Never say it, not even in your head or to yourself," says Nocturnal Donkey (Internet research brings up interesting names). "This has happened to me twice. Once I shattered my wrist on a last run trying a 540. Second time I did it wakeboarding and lost the rope on a handlepass 360 then somehow, when I crash landed, the rope got caught around my wrist and just cut the

hell out of it."

Then there's the incident with Wayne Lomax who rode last over the Freestyle kicker at end of Round 1 of the ATBA-UK Series 2003 at Coastal. Commentator, Andy Potter, was the one to say the fateful words and Wayne followed them with a nasty fall that broke his ankle.

But hearing the stories, it could well be true that anything we "proclaim" before a run could be tempting misfortune. Steve says, "I have always found saying 'Watch this!' to be a sure-fire way to hurt myself in the presence of others. The last time I said it, on my snowboard, I mucked up the trick and landed on my left arm. Double spiral fracture and nerve damage (still noticable after 18 months)." Not nice. Then there's "I'll show you how to do it properly" - well, showing off has never been fruitful but maybe there's a few things we need to avoid saying, just to be safe.

I'm pretty sure we've all said "one last ride" a number of times without incident following but whatever the X-file this one goes under, I can safely say that next time it's suggested we end the day's riding, instead of entertaining "one last run", I'll be happy to point my board towards the beer tent and say "yeah, tell you what, let's call it a day."

words by pam hill


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DEAR TECHNICAL JOHN

Introducing a new column in Scuz for those tech-heads wanting to get the best out of their equipment.

Our very own Technical John can answer those questions about any problems or queries you've got about your board, be it fitting egg shocks, and we all know what a pain in the arse that is, to setting up your board for riding a particular kind of terrain.

Send Technical John an email to technicaljohn@scuz.info with your questions.

But kicking off with a subject that many riders probably don't think about but no doubt battle with almost every time they take their board out. Tyre pressure. Read on, you might learn something.

How much air have you in those tyres? Is it enough? Do you want more? Is there more in the front than the back? Is that racing air or freestyle air? Cold or warm air?

Tyre pressure to some people is all important in mountainboarding, too little and you'll be going slow and too much and you might not make it round that corner. So how do you find what's best for you? Well you have to experiment, perhaps do several runs high, several low or work from low to high until your comfortable or feel that's just right for your overall ride feeling.

You will find that you'll tyre pressure from place to place will vary, perhaps in line with gradient of the hill or material your riding on. If you ever get the chance to be a fly on the wall, go and listen to the noSno team discuss tyre pressure and tyres, generally it's a interesting conversation. They normally go to events with a range of tyres, and will test each of them until they think that have the right selection. However you listen to other riders and they will be saying just pump them up and go for it. You often find these guys in the bottoms of berms after catching the guy in front and not being able to steer around a rider or turn round the corner! But if you would listen to more riders they do come up with some fantastic suggestions. If you have less air in the back tyres than the front then you get more grip from them. I've often thought the American Indy race car series have some good points although perhaps not best used in mountainboarding. But Indy car racing they have different tyre pressure on the inside left tyres, with different compounds cause there are more left hand corners than right hand corners. Of course, the idea about less pressure in the back is interesting but what about the tyre tread doesn't that help round corners? Tyre tread is another conversation altogether.

Freestyle is a interesting place for air pressure and not often a place where it causes too much conversation. The reason for this is because the down slope can be dropped in from at many different heights (on a normal hill side, a big wooden 4ft wide slope is different) and its this that can be a factor in the amount of speed you hit a freestyle kicker at, and not how much pressure you have in your tyres. Although if a rider pumped up to the max with air pressure drops in lower to a kicker than a guy further up with lower air pressure, who has more speed and eventually gets more height?

Not all tyres are rated at the same PSI rating,

the Primo tyres only rated to 50psi, while the MBS T1's are rated 60psi. The 12.5" noSno racer tyres are only rated to 30psi. Not everybody will reach these maximums and may well feel their best riding is being done on a lower pressure. However, you'll find riders actually risking it and going higher than the recommended rating and in some case's you will see the stress on the tyre's which show up as bulges, or a more worn area of the tyre tread. Tyres stress can also be shown up on power slides ripping tyre tread or riding fast on low pressure when a tyre spill's over the hub walls, the same problem also happens at low pressure when there is so much movement tyre can slip off the hub.

A year or two ago there was talk of an international rider competing in a freestyle event riding with 80psi. Imagine the landing and blowout if it happened? Of course riding with the maximum air in your tyres brings its own set of riding styles. With full blown tyres you'll feel every rock, stone and bit of dirt and possibly while landing from heights more of a jolt that you would have to compress for, where as with softer tyres you'll have a smoother ride and a smoother landing; maybe a bouncy sensation.

Tyres and the inner tubes can be found to vary widely apart from that already talked about, apart from the pressure rating there is also the ply rating, just how many layers of rubber are in your tyres? The common use in mountainboarding is two ply, however you'll find two ply and now the MBS T1's are suppose to be one ply. Again that rubber ply rating is interesting because of the rubber composition, T1's are grey and therefore a softer compound of rubber, but is it just a colour difference? After all most wheel chairs have grey rubber on their tyres. The tread is another point to tyres and a whole technical section to its own, how much side wall grip, is there a centre line of rubber? Etc, etc.

You'll see on some tyres it mentions cold air, what happens if you put in warm air? Or some other lighter than air substitute, like helium? Can some body try it please? I once heard a funny story. Somebody was travelling with their board overseas and wanted to know how to lighten their board so it wouldn't cost as much to store it as luggage. Some people suggested filling the tyres with helium, but the funny bit was somebody suggested taking the air out of the tyres to help get the weight down!

It would seem that this year in the UK racing calendar air pressure could be all important in the downhill events, the course material at Haredown could get into your tyres and puncture them if they are too low, where as too high and you ride a sharp flint and it could split them. Big Sheep and you pump up and go faster, no track material problems there. Out to Grass, there's a slow section and that extra air could help you, but would it hinder you over the first rollers? Air Fusion, could be slow. Then there's Bolesworth. Who needs all that air pressure. It's fast without it, no track material problems though. Lastly there's Court Farm. It seems fast, yeah small stones might do some damage. But it's one where you'll have to experiment.

words and photos by technical john poole



TIGERS! - SELF TITLED

With a nice art deco cover that your Dad might like, Tigers! are the first release from new LS6 (Leeds) based DIY music label Chinchilla Tone Recordings. 8 songs in 10 minutes – oh yeah!!

It's a screaming Spastic rock fest featuring the vocalist from human fly and assorted other experienced Leeds Musicians. Very mental, great lyrics, Tigers! are the unholy throbbing promise breakers – as heartless as your children are. Here to get right in your face, wearing only sheer tigers striped boxer shorts, instruments, and occasionally 3-D glasses, in parts atmospheric, in parts hardcore, some groovy rock, but mostly just mental spasticity.

You can't really go far wrong with track titles such as 'You can't spell necromancer without man or romance' and 'Chaos spawned by lust'. Think of the likes of The Locust, An Albatross, Swing Kid, Crimson Curse etc. You have probably never heard of those bands have you? All the more reason to add this deliciously affordable three quid piece of vinyl to your very meagre collection!

Available from www.chinchillaweb.co.uk. Tigers! wanted you to know that they are the gentle whispering discontent of your lover. So watch out!!

THE NOTHING - SELF TITLED

Put your fist to the floor and spin a kick, its time to mosh to the metal. Proper big long songs.



TIGERS! - SELF TITLED

The guitarist is from my neck of the woods and I have known him for a while, and he was a bit down when he first moved to Leeds, as he couldn't seem to get a band going playing his sort of metalcore.

I think he must have been writing riffs for a few years, and The Nothing is his turn to rock and let it all out. Each song is just full of Martin Hare (bass with Send More Paramedics) getting his finest riffage out. Proper stomping guitar playing to the standard of err, how to put it without being derogatory. Pantera maybe? Metallica? But without needing to be all shit and cheesy and receding.

Screeching vocals from Jamie Farrell, formerly of Tangaroa, the drums from Send more paramedics, and still DIY as you like, available from horrorbusiness@hotmail.com.

A snip at, again, three quid. A full half hour of delicious metal here. I think you should get your parents to buy it, and then you can play it to them to say thank you, show em how to mosh maybe? Ahh!

HUMAN FLY – A GOD AMONG INSECTS

For those of you who have seen the Scuz Mountain boarding Videozine, Human Fly don't need an introduction. The long awaited album release has not long been finished, with Scuz's own Welly partly responsible for the revolting 3-D close up of a fly on the front of the album.

Pulling no punches this fast JR Ewing style rock monster belts through its 8 tracks in

around 20 minutes, to give an indication.

A truly amazing band live, your jaw will drop. This CD is best purchased from www.calculated-risk.co.uk/propaganda.htm, and while not as cheap as the other music releases we have had the benefit of telling you about, at six/seven quid its hardly going to break the bank. Hell, you could buy it and still go out drinking, even on trainee wages. What more do you want?

Oh yeah, me to tell you about the music. In parts rock, bordering on what is conventionally known as metal, but with some softer parts, often very psychedelic and atmospheric, but without being progressive. The guitarists parts show their experience, both the guitar/throat and guitarist came to fame through Canvas, and this is no let down to their earlier releases, as powerful and thorough as anything from a major label.

'The ruling class controls the means of production / the dominated class does all the work / a capitalist society is a slave society.' Indeed.

Did I say it was beautifully recorded? I got it in my collection. So should you, unless your crap. In which case don't bother.



THE NOTHING - SELF TITLED



HUMANFLY - A GOD AMONG INSECTS

POLITICS

IS THE PRESIDENT A WHACK JOB? DOES IT MATTER?

Supposedly, if you put live frogs in a kettle of cold water on the stove, then raise the temperature very slowly, the frogs will eventually boil to death without trying to escape. I don't know if that is true, but it does seem the perfect, if sometimes overused, analogy for what we see going on around us in America. My guess is that we frogs are about medium done for. Having never cooked frogs or lived in a fascist state, I am not a practiced judge of these things, but I'm quite sure the end result of either is in no way desirable for frogs or human beings.

I do notice however, that some frogs are turning quite red. Here in the States there is now a trend of wearing red on Fridays in silent protest of the Bush junta. Reportedly, this is modeled after a 1940 practice by citizens of Nazi occupied Norway, though it is hard to imagine why oppressed Norwegians would do anything that might make them stand out to their oppressors. Still, urban legend or not, it's all over the Internet and one would suppose quite a few people on the "left-coast" are sporting red. By now, it's probably old hat out there.

Not so here in the Washington D.C. area, where we have always thought twice before expressing dissent with any administration, given that the government dominates employment and many other aspects of our lives, either directly or indirectly. If your employer does not sell something to the government, your spouse may well work in a federal agency, etc. Political views do affect things at work, and it is usually best to keep them to yourself. But these days many of us feel something stranger than normal Washington politics going on—an unseen, mostly unspoken, but surely felt atmosphere of spooky fear.

Is it chilly in here, or is that the leer of a mad man?

"STUPIDITY ALONE CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR GEORGE BUSH'S BEHAVIOUR—ESPECIALLY WHEN HIS BEHAVIOUR SO WELL MATCHES KNOWN PATHOLOGIES"

Still though, the Eastern Seaboard has always been more repressed than the West. So if you mention in polite company how spooky our current political regime seems, most will look at you like you are crazy, or perhaps even explode into a fanatical defense of George W. Bush, in which case you know you have pressed a neo-con's button. Only a minority here will openly discuss the chilling parallels that informed people see in the Bush junta with the rise of Nazi Germany. This is partly because the more hysterical liberals have abused that analogy to death since the beginning of the administration, before there was much evidence; so it is has been considered off limits in moderate,

intelligent circles.

This is slowly changing I believe, because it is now becoming obvious that George W. Bush is not merely dumb—he may well be nuts. Every day his actions look more like a genuinely disordered and dangerous mind at work. Not exactly news to those of us who long ago read the same observation on the Internet, or in recently published books to that effect. But what is news is that ordinary nonpolitical white collar working puds, the dreary commuter tribes, in the suburbs and outlying towns are starting to whisper it among themselves. So maybe are beginning to more openly address the question of whether our commander in chief is a certifiable loopjob—and if he is, just what kind of nuts he may be—and do so in language average literate folks can understand without covering the entire Jungian cosmology or diving into Freud's turgid depths. In calling numerous psychiatrist friends, I learned it is considered unethical for licensed psychiatrists to comment publicly on the mental state of an American president, and I can't say I disagree with that. But the mind of the guy who now has one finger on the red nuclear button and the other up his nose is a matter that should be talked about and is being talked about and I'll be damned if I'm going to avoid it. So we will have to punt and hope for the best.

Let's keep it simple: Stupidity alone cannot account for George Bush's behaviour—especially when his behaviour so well matches known pathologies. For example, if an ordinary citizen believed he was being directed by God to attack "the governments where the Bible happened," as he once described the Middle East, or thought that ordering the execution of a criminal was funny as hell, or saw everyone who disagreed with him as an agent of the Devil, he or she would be put on some heavy meds at the very least. Hell, I've been medicated for a lot less.

A fellow named Paul Levy in Florida has circulated an email calling Bush's condition "malignant narcissism." As an off-again-on-again enthusiast of Jung and Freud, I was naturally interested in this, and after dredging up what I remember from psychology classes, a few books (and yes, a long stint in therapy myself) his observations seem at least a little insightful. If nothing else, he has given us some terms and contexts in which to consider what is going on. Contexts we will certainly never hear or see in the media.

According to Levy, Bush's behaviour would be normal behaviour for a malignant narcissist who finds himself with the kind of power a US president has. The narcissist would conclude that he is divinely inspired by God and see his command of the world's mightiest army and its wealthiest nation as proof God blesses his efforts. In some ways that makes him an average American. Thanks to our Puritan beginnings, we have long believed that power and wealth are manifestations of God's preference for an individual or a nation, and unfortunately tend to act on to this mystical assumption. Whether we are saving the world from communism by killing Southeast Asians or covertly assassinating the democratically

elected leftist president of a Latin American nation, it is viewed as liberating the planet from the evil boogers Americans see everywhere, but which emanate from our own national psyche. The world being imperfect, America's quest to make it perfect it by destroying all it considers impure can only lead to much world destruction, of course. It also bears a nasty resemblance to the Nazi obsession with purification.

Another characteristic of malignant narcissism is said to be a near or absolute lack of compassion. So when George Bush laughed and mocked the last-minute pleading of Carla Faye Tucker, whom he sent to the death chamber in Texas, ("Ohhh, pleeeeee don't kill me!" he mimicked in a scornful whine on a conservative talk show) he had no idea saner people do not find this funny. I am told it is characteristic of malignant narcissists not to feel any remorse whatsoever. We might also assume that the deaths of American GIs have little effect on him either, though he must pretend so on camera.

ASS-SCRATCHERS + GOD = STRANGE TIMES INDEED

Bush doesn't fit our image of the hysterical madman exhorting a nation down a megalomaniacal path toward horror. In fact, most Americans, and quite understandably, would rather have a beer and watch a game with George Bush than, say, with Al Gore. Meaning that George Bush has what campaign strategists call "ass-scratcher appeal" with the average guy. He also seems to have a mesmerizing effect on conservative Americans that is totally inexplicable to the rest of us. He can lie, then lie about the lie, then all but admit he lied and they still come running and falling like wheat before the sickle.

Personally, I think it is the power of delusion (having deluded some ex-wives, bosses and the IRS a few times myself,) Bush's own and our national one. In his personal delusion Bush is so convinced of his own words that he comes off as very convincing to others. He is very seductive to most Americans' concept of themselves as a nation. To them he looks like the first president in a long time to assert what is "right about America," and especially so following a president who was deemed "slick" and kept a woman under his desk (Which strikes some of us coarser types as pretty damned slick if you can get away with it.) Bush has charisma to those who believe the world is a mean place and that subtler considerations only get in the way. Especially fearful conservatives, always operating from the politics of scarcity, fearful of losing what they have gained materially, those being the core operating values of standard conservatism. Neo-conservatives, of course, are willing to kill you to get it in the first place. If Bush has given conservatives cause for joy, he has given fundamentalist Christians an absolute hard-on. With tears of joy and praise, they have embraced him as their long-awaited national savior, and if the concept of malignant narcissism is right, about the only thing a narcissist finds more appealing than being president is being the Messiah. So, hand-in-hand

Bush and these Christian soldiers, clothed in the infallible rightness of their agenda—an ultra-fundamentalist Christian America with dominion over a world hammered (bombed if need be) into a likeness of itself, they stomp forward in close hoplite ranks. Bush poses against backdrops that make halos of the presidential seal appearing as Christ-like as possible. The adoring throng does not fail to be properly inspired, despite his congenital close-eyed squint. Even without psychological theories of narcissism, the whole idea of ecstatic Christian masses spotting a halo around Bush's head in Newsweek seems a little nuts at face value, though it must make Karl Rove pee his pants with glee in that campaign headquarters known as the White House.

IN FACT, DOESN'T ANYONE FIND IT STRANGE THAT TWO BUSHES WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT SO CLOSELY TOGETHER, THE FATHER BEING LESS THAN GIFTED, AND THE SON AS USELESS AS TITS ON A BOAR HOG?

Now comes the Hitler analogy, and I'll be damned if I am going to apologize for it: Just as Hitler struck a chord deep in the German unconscious, Bush is touching something within the American unconscious. Whether he is a manifestation of our national mental state, or whether we are unwitting agents of his could be argued. It certainly seems symbiotic. We did elect him for a reason, and history will probably

record that reason as not being a very pretty one, the similarities in our national behavior being unnervingly similar to those of pre-war Germany. Why do so many assumedly decent, normal Americans support insane actions such as the Iraq War, strange off-shore wire cage prisons in Cuba, the government's own admission of a dozen secret prisons around the world, or stubborn opposition to the world tribunal for war criminals and ethnic cleansers? Doesn't anyone find these things strange? In fact, doesn't anyone find it strange that two Bushes were elected president so closely together, the father being less than gifted, and the son as useless as tits on a boar hog? (Except at escaping his many failed businesses with loads of cash, rather like the gambler who shoots out the lights and grabs the pot.) If that's not strange I don't know what is. When Fidel Castro offered to monitor the 2000 presidential election count in Florida, we probably could not have done any worse by taking him up on it. Yet most Americans, including their media, did not seem to find all this one bit odd, and pretended that the Brownshirts torching black votes on down in Florida (despite the Brownshirts being orchestrated by yet a third Bush!) was just another zany little election fracas. Since then, the ACLU has won a lawsuit proving that it was indeed a mugging going on in Florida, and the courts have ordered those tens of thousands of black voters restored to the rolls. The Republican dominated state's reply has been an unspoken but clear as hell, "fuck you!" Those black voters

are still off the rolls as I write.

I do not have to go as far as the Sunshine State to feel the chill of suspicious eyes upon me. Right here in Northern Virginia, the northernmost point of the American South, I get little moments of fear that make me wonder if I am being singled out. Maybe I'm just paranoid. The other day when the mailman delivered my subscriber copy of Socialist Worker, he felt perfectly comfortable questioning me rudely as to my national loyalty, as if I were some sort of fair game and not deserving of normal privacy or courtesy. A local rightwing politico, pissed about my liberal activism in housing, tells me she has friends in a government agency from which she retired, and has collected some pretty ugly facts about my past (none of which can be anything close to the alleged horrors in my divorce files.) I received an anonymous phone call regarding the same activism threatening a trumped-up lawsuit: "We'll break you, you liberal sonofabitch. Don't make us own your house boy!" In fact, last week the owner of a local Internet forum announced he had turned me in to the Homeland Security Administration due to the unpatriotic nature of my postings. Small things to be sure, but they add up. If nothing else, they say something about the political climate these days.

WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE

Someday historians may be tracking the spread of this malign political virus like we now trace the rise of earlier fascist movements. And I



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think they will conclude that it began here in the American South, that breeding ground of all things politically dark and deep-fried in hate, which gave us slavery, the Civil War, Orville Faubus, the Klan, Trent Lott, the fanatical Christian right the same sweat-soaked crooked venal South that that had no qualms about fixing a Florida election for George Bush. As a matter of fact, George W. Bush's political career started in the South when he was organizing Christian support for his daddy. And it is through deal-making with some of its most scheming slimeballs (i.e., Pat Robertson delivering millions of holy-roller votes in exchange for government concessions worth tens of millions) that he helped get daddy elected. I believe that, like so many of our national carcinomas, the present one began in the South too. It is as if yet another American congenital defect manifests itself from down in that unconscious realm of the national psyche, from the land of the tobacco chawing sheriffs and snake-handling churches, to infect our entire political organism. But that's another story.

Meanwhile, it is hard not to notice that the administration polarized around Bush displays the same meanness. They see the same spooks, enemies and demons to be eliminated in every corner of the world and at home. The whole crew gives international law, the Geneva Conventions and civil liberties the same sneer. Are they as sick as he is? Or are they just one big happy dysfunctional family in which they play the role of enablers? Or did they simply end up there because of the twisted trajectory of their own career passage through the bowels of the military-industrial-political monolith? But

when you stand back, and look at where they all came from, look at the entire interconnected apparatus of the military industrial war machine, the gutless complicity of big corporate media, our numbed, engorged culture of destruction and consumption it all becomes too much to bear.

Too much to bear. Well, if push comes to shove and shove comes to worse, some of us seem not about to bear it at all. One can get a dual passport as a safety precaution, as an escape option. Scarcely a week goes by that I do not meet a person who confides that he or she is considering just that, because of our present political condition (Let's be honest here in these lefty communications masquerading as Internet essays. How many readers have considered the idea?) I cannot verify it with immigration application figures, but I would suspect there is at least some increase in the number of Americans seeking to emigrate to places such as Great Britain, or New Zealand or Canada. A New Zealand newspaper recently ran an editorial welcoming liberal Americans, called them asylum seekers and opining that New Zealand should ease its strict immigration standards for them because those fleeing tend to be educated, creative people with high ideals. They must be observing something from down there. Speaking for myself, I cannot decide about emigrating. Is it best to agree with Greg Palast and Gore Vidal that it is safer to shoot at the bastards from across the waters? Fighting from within is beginning to look like a lesser option every day. Or should one take the stance of Marine Corps hero Chesty Puller, who said: "The enemy is in front of us. The enemy is

behind us. He is to our right and to our left. We can't miss'em now, boys!" That sounds good, but one person never beats a mob.

A whiff of hopelessness hangs in the air. After all, we live in a country in which nearly a million citizens marched for women's lives last April in Washington D.C., yet barely made the local news, and then only because of the traffic congestion, not the issue. We are talking about a country whose non-elected leader called the largest global demonstrations in human history—the worldwide demonstrations against the then-impending war in Iraq—a "focus group." Most Americans do not even know that it took place. Is it truly possible to be heard in such a nation? If it is impossible for sane dissent, (real dissent, not just the corporate-sponsored stage-prop Democratic Party opposition), to have a national voice, then all our frogs are already cooked. In which case it has ceased to matter that we may have another of history's full blown wackjobs as our leader.

As you can see, at the moment I am in a grim quandary. So are many others, I am sure. But given the vicissitudes of the human spirit, we can take comfort in that tomorrow is yet another summer day, one that can be traversed on the smooth plank of gin and tonic.

Pour'em!

Joe Bageant is a magazine editor and essayist who writes from Winchester, Virginia. He may be contacted at bageantjb@netscape.net.

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BUY NOTHING DAY

With the above in mind, such destructive souls should receive as little support as possible from the likes of you and me. Fancy being a spanner in the works of your economy? Buy nothing day activists offer their advice.

SOME JAMMING IDEAS...

Taking part in BND is fun and engaging. Below are some of the most successful activities - if you want to add to the list CONTACT us...

GO TO WORK - GET FIRED

1. Get a Saturday job at a BRANDED store or FOOD OUTLET.
2. Time it so your first day at work is on BND (November 29th).
3. Invite lots of your friends along.
4. Your friends pretend to be customers and que at your checkout.
5. You refuse to sell stuff because its BND.
6. Your friends (un-happy shoppers) create stink.
7. Tell the store manager you wont sell anything on BND!!!
8. See how long it takes before you get FIRED!!!

If you're already working on BND - PHONE IN SICK!!!

SHOPPER FREE ZONE

Mark out a public area and fill it with people playing games, listening to music and chilling out on sofas or chairs (inflatable furniture is good). Hand out balloons with Buy Nothing Day written on them to the bemused onlookers

CHOO CHOO...

You'll need 13 (lucky), friends and 26 plain shopping bags (if possible all same colour). On each bag put 1 letter making up (BUY NOTHING DAY) line yourself one behind each other - spelling out 'Buy Nothing Day' on the left and right side of your line. Play follow the leader - snake around malls, shops and stand in queues etc.

TROLLEY PRIZ

Self explained - borrow some shopping trolleys and get teams to decorate them in BND racing colours or banners. Map out a course and Race or time challenge? Alternatively get friends to climb into trolleys with BND banners and wheel them up and down shopping isles until you get asked to leave! Chant Slogans - 'Shop less Live More!' - 'Give Love - not money!' or 'Spend a day without spending!'

CHICKEN OR COW?

YOU'll need to borrow a chicken outfit for this one. Visit fast food outlets with a banner saying

'YOU'RE NOT HAVING MY CHICKEN WINGS!' Works well if there's a large flock of chickens. Or hire a cow costume and shout 'STOP EATING MY FRIENDS!'

TEMPER TANTRUM!

Re-live those childhood tantrum moments - except this time you're all grown up and should know better. Sit on the floor in any shop with a friend and chuck a mental. Shout things like 'I don't want anything anymore!' or 'You've got more shopping than me - that's not fair you pig!', anything really - just be a BIG kid.

SWAP SHOP

Fairly simple idea. Set up a table and ask people to do swaps. Just for fun - leave a set of bugus Porsche keys and see if anyone notices?

BANNER DROP

Slightly more adventurous - you'll need a big sheet. Paint on a BND slogan like 'The more you consume the less you live!' and see if you can get it put up somewhere in your local shopping centre.

www.buynothingday.co.uk
27th November 2004



NICHOLAS "THE CANNON" BRENNAN. BOLESWORTH MOUNTAINBOARD CENTRE.



ANDY W. INDY GRAB. BOLESWORTH MOUNTAINBOARD CENTRE.

SUPERBOLE MOUNTAINBOARD CENTRE

Finally the northern riders have a centre. Woo Hoo! Cheers to Ride The Hill. Actually we have two centres, one which I'm tempted to slag off because we went there before the centre actually opened and had planning permission, and were told were not allowed to ride it. That is the Kelstedge one in Derbyshire, which I think also had something to do with ride the hill, but I haven't been for a while, by all reports its not a bad little place, with room for a lot more stuff. A review will be written up in the near future.

However the centre I was referring to is Bolesworth. Described by 'the Hill' as one of their flagship centres, it doesn't have the absolute southern plushness of a boarders drag lift, but, it is very impressive.

Bordercross course is probably around 350m long, maybe a bit more. Starts off with a run into a set of rather tricky rollers, of which there are five, getting bigger and bigger consecutively. It is then into a large step – up tabletop type affair, with steps down on the backside which can be pumped for speed or dropped off, into a mellow lefthander, and into an angled tabletop, which drops away steeply to the right, and into the fastest section of the course, there is a choice of table top to ride over in the main section of the course, or a little freestyle bit, and then into the fastest left hander, towards the finish line.

While not super technical, it has a few tricky parts, namely riding over the last roller in the

top section with you're knees round your ears, and the last lefthander. Much more fun for the heel side riders than the toe-siders (such as my goofy self, boy did I cane myself the first time I hit that full pelt!), but a good challenging course, which should show some interesting racing later this year.

The freestyle section is what the park was named after however, and rightly so. Its basically a big bowled section, with a table top sat at the bottom, which can be hit from most directions.

There are or three main starting points, a main run in into the nicest face of the table top, which can be jumped, to lead straight into a wooden sectioned quarter pipe, the left hand section about 6 foot high, the bit on the right maybe 9 or 10'.

You can also move further round the bowl for a run into a jump over a rail, into a drop. There are a variety of rails kicking about, recently treated to stop rust, looked like someone had stuck a bit of wax on one of them as well. Lovely.

There are a few different lines than can be taken from the top main run in, don't fancy clearing the table top? Transfer into a bowled section to the right of the table top, hang left for a fairly serious rail passing between the main table top and another slopestyle dirt section with a rail on top to the left, hit the left dirt bit of a fat transfer or some flat to drop 8 metre rail.

The best part of the freestyle area is its availability to riders of all levels, I could ride it when I got there first time, bit nervous, riding

with soft tyres, doing nowt special, up to when the confidence was flowing tyres were hard and I was tearing it up (if I do say so myself!!).

The free-ride section advertised on the site is not open yet - which is a bit naughty - but is apparently coming along slowly under the watchful eye of chief freeriding nutcase and all round werewolf of the UK Andy Potter and a friend, so it's sure to be fairly serious when it does open, no dates as yet though.

It's a new centre which is likely to evolve well provided they keep getting support from the northern riders, which I'm sure they **Will**

Suggested improvements? A bar, sandwich fridge and an old dear to make cups of tea. Oh, and build a centre in the north that doesn't require a 2 hour car journey for the scuz team and Leeds crew. Some people just want everything don't they?

But seriously, a minor discount for ATBA riders would probably help elicit support, and that's all. Can't wait to go again.

CONTACT DETAILS

SuperBole Mountainboard Centre
Bolesworth Estate
Harthill nr Chester
CH3 9LQ

01453 519113
www.ridethehill.com

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

That's about it from us this month, this month? Ok this issue, as months don't seem to bear much influence (or haven't recently) on the releases of the zines, but hey, I know your not perfect either.

We will have another one out before long though, and for the very first time, we'll give you some idea of what it's going to be about.

We have a story about Leon and Nik, the two sponsored northerners who recently sold their house, bought a motorhome, and have spent this summer driving round having a bloody good time of it.

We also have an interview; I believe an exclusive interview with the man who is responsible for

creating the best mountainboarding scene anywhere in the world - Stuart Kirk.

We are definitely going to have more stories and reports from the races that are still to be held, hope to see you there, come over and shoot your mouth off at us if you feel that way out.

We'll probably have some other stuff as well, a political/social article, a competition where you can win something worthless - if you enter, which no-one usually does. And probably some humour, if what makes the editors laugh can qualify as such, and err, dunno....no, actually I do know, we're just not going to give the game away. So there.

Oh, and it's not going to be free. For which we're eternally sorry but we'll hopefully not be eternally skint. Which is good news for you lot as it means more zines with more regularity and possibly, but not necessarily, more professionalism.

Love and dirt,

Scuz

ps. It's only going to cost you a quid. Not much for this quality a read. Unless we don't like you in which case it could cost you a lot, lot more. Like £1.50.

ALL TERRAIN BOARDING ASSOCIATION

The ATBA is the governing body of the sport of All Terrain Boarding also known as mountain boarding and off road boarding. The UK branch of the ATBA has been running since 1997. With the increased popularity of the sport, the ATBA-UK is now a Limited non-profit charitable organisation, ATBA-UK Ltd. This is to make sure no one can make millions out of the association in years to come - the riders must come first!

THE AIMS OF THE ATBA-UK ARE:

The ATBA-UK is a non-profit making organisation to provide the recognised forum to represent and promote the sport in the UK by:

1. Putting riders interests first.
2. Promote safety.
3. Sanctioning events
4. Providing training.
5. Communicating our actions and decisions to members.
6. Sourcing funding for the above.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ATBA-UK membership card and stickers.
- Discount exclusive insurance for riders, including Personal Injury and Third Party Liability to cover wherever you ride.
- 1/3 off entrance fees to ATBA-UK British Championships.
- Discounts for family memberships.
- Discounts for riding at participating centres across the UK.
- Newsletter throughout the year.
- Specialist advice for members.
- An opportunity to voice and vote for the future of the sport.
- The opportunity to represent and aid the sport in the UK.

This is some info about the ATBA, the UK chapter of the All Terrain Boarding Association. It is a democratically elected council of riders, elected democratically by the members of the ATBA to act as organisers of the most successful UK ATB events.

The benefits of being a member extend not only to getting discounts from the companies which have chosen to lend support to the organisation, but also a members card offers discounts at a majority of the centres available to ride at, in the UK. They also act as a go between to offer cheap and comprehensive insurance specific to extreme sports practitioners from the insurance industry.

The organisation is experienced at acting as a go between for the riders in the UK and the Industry in the UK, whose aims aren't always the same. They are on your side, but they need your support. For the last two years the UK series has been an extremely professionally run series (I have only two years experience of the ATBA-UK's operations). Your money is not paying wages, it is to enable a hard working unpaid team of highly motivated UK riders sort out the best possible summers for you lot. Its not a thankless task, but without your support it will become so. By the riders, and for the riders. Just like us. Look out for an interview with the man responsible for its success in the next amazing issue of Scuz mountainboarding zine.

SCUZ MOUNTAINBOARDING ZINE

Proud members of the ATBA-UK



Membership Application:

To join the ATBA-UK please complete and return this form with payment as detailed below:

(For a full description of member benefits please log onto www.atbauk.org)

Name:
 Address:
 County:
 Post Code:
 Phone Number:
 Email:
 Date of Birth:

For ATBA-UK use only:

Referrer:
106 SCUZ

Date received:

Member Number:

Membership Required: (Please tick one only)

Senior Member	£20.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 1 family member	£25.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 2 family members	£30.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 3 family members	£35.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 4 family members	£40.00	Name:	DOB:
Junior Member (Under 18 @ 1 st Jan)	£15.00		

(Family members do not get the full membership benefits such as newsletter etc)
 (All Prices are for one Year's Membership from end of month processed)

Comments:

By giving information about yourself ("Your Data") you agree that ATBA-UK and its authorised third parties may hold, use and disclose Your Data in servicing its/their relationship with you, including disclosure to third parties. ATBA-UK, our associated companies and third party product providers may use and analyse Your Data, including the nature of your transactions to give you information about our/ their products and services and those of selected third parties which may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish Your Data to be used for these purposes, please tick the following box.

Please send this completed form together with cheque/postal order made payable to "ATBA-UK" to:

ATBA-UK Ltd, PO Box 2495, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 3XZ

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery of membership details.

Any questions or enquiries please email membership@atbauk.org or phone 0870 7658240

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MORE THAN JUST A SHOP - GET INVOLVED!



injuries of the month

Check page 28 for our story on padding and protection. Like we say, we absolutely are serious on the subject of protection with both your Scuz editors taking more than a few knocks; some more serious than others.

As a result of Andy's recent bash to the head at Round 3, we decided to do a little study into padding, whether it does the job intended or whether the padding available is really suitable for mountainboarding. Let's face it, we really seem to be simply "make doing"

with what's available for other sports rather than riding with equipment specifically aimed at mountainboarding a lot of the time. Come on industry! Pull your fingers out! The welfare of the riders are in your hands!

However, we couldn't help but have a little chuckle to ourselves when we looked at the results of the online poll regarding the issue of padding. When we asked what injuries you've received while riding with pads, we were quite astounded. So this issues "injury of the

month" definitely has to become "injuries of the month" and we thought you all deserved to win! Congratulations fellas!

Next issue, providing someone hurts themselves adequately enough, and with photos to prove it, we'll return to the usual format. But in the mean time, stay safe. Send your photos to injuryofthemoth@scuz.info with a little write up of what you did and how you did it. And we might have something to offer in return. No promises though.

Fractured shoulder. Not sure better protection would have helped, as I fell and hit my forearm on the base of a tree forcing my arm up into the socket and fracturing the edge of my shoulder socket rather than the collar bone • Fractured my hip at the knockhill freestyle • Ribs, back, concussion. Yeah, a pressure suit might of helped the back • **Broken collar bone, severe concussion, broken arm** • I fell at speed and skidded over some exposed chalk. I had my elbow pads on, but the elastic on one got pressed down - revealing my arm. Now it's scarred by the chalk. Same thing also happened causing many grazed elbows • Bruised coccyx before I bought arse pads, broken ribs before I bought body armour. Recent rib breakage due to bad fall, elbow was padded, which broke my rib, even while wearing Scrub body armour. I did proper deck it though • Broken finger, severely sprained ankle. I don't think any padding/protection I'd wear would have helped • Am always getting injuries to my wrists even though I always wear wrist guards. I don't believe better protection could have stopped this. But learning to fall onto my elbows could have • Ankles - knees - hips - wrists - fingers - ass cheeks • Broke my arm because of the wrist guard. If I hadn't wore the wrist guard I would have just broken my wrist. Better protection could not have stopped this • I ripped the ligaments in my left knee at a skate park, and no, I don't believe any other padding could have prevented it. Also sprains, pulled muscles and ripped rotator cuff • I sustained a bruised tailbone. I had padded shorts on, but they were lacking protection around the tailbone • Sore knees, sore wrists - nowt serious • Multiple concussions, shoulder dislocation, scrapes and bruises, etc... • **Pad rash. I hate that shit** • I used to ware Armadillos on my knees till some one clipped the back of my wheels causing me to fall directly on my knees. It felt as if my legs were going to come though my knees! • **Broken ribs, separated shoulder, broken fingers. All probably could have been prevented if I had covered myself completely in pads. However, once when I did that, I got heat exhaustion, which is worse than broken stuff.** • Landed on my back and scraped the crap out of my back and ass • Scraped knees as pads have ridden up - little way to avoid this without making pads • Uncomfortable to wear. Cut up calves being run over by other boards or even my own! • I was wearing a lid and got speed wobble down track and fell on my face to the bottom of a ditch (cut inside of both lips on my brace, cut eyelid, cuts all down one side of my face) • Cracked wrist with old crappy wrist guards. Two broken ribs although there is no padding on the ribs • **Loss of skin, dislocations, breaks. If I was completely covered in bubble wrap all the time that could help. But really nothing else could of helped** • Broken wrist with wrist guards that do not have protection on back of wrist • Dislocated shoulder • Several concussions, swollen knees, dislocated collar bone. I think there are certain impacts that pads can cope with and prevent injury but past a particular limit there is nothing that can prevent damage • Bruising. No, the protection that I have is sufficient. Anymore would get in the way • Minor scratches and pad burn. Possibly using some sort of material to prevent this would be excellent! • My lil' bro broke his arm in two places - nearly had to have it pinned, had to have an operation to reset it - boarding whilst wearing wrist and elbow pads • **Broken nose, broken fingers, fractured wrist** • Broke my collar bone wearing full gear - Broken ribs, badly bruised knees and elbows, cracked scafoid and concussion • Concussion when I managed to crack my helmet open. Some knee and elbow pads that prevent twisting of the joints would be good as I have fucked up my knees way too many times • **I gave myself concussion whiplash amnesia and pulled the muscles of my shoulder bone whilst doing a jump that is normally piss easy** • Cracked ribs as a result of landing on my elbow pad without body armour. Dislocated hip, whiplash from flipping off a ramp with helmet on and banging my head • **Fractured collar bone** • Broken ribs several times • Dislocated shoulder - possibly if the body armour prevented my shoulder going to far forward, however that would have passed the buck onto another bone/muscle • Cuts and bruises all over • Twisted pelvis. I don't think any amount of padding could of saved me • Just scrapes, bruises, dislocated finger as well but that couldn't have been prevented • **Bruised ass, bruised knees, sprained wrist, stretched ligaments in my shoulder, stretched ligaments in my knee, black eyes, sore head, the list goes on and on... most of these were minor injuries because I was wearing pads** • Cracked coccyx bone, torn ligaments in wrist



SAF

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER... US, NOT THE RIDER IN LANE 2!